

CLASS WAR

Internationalist News and Analysis

Volume 1 Number 3 January 2013 Labor Donated Sliding Scale Donation \$2.00-\$4.00

Injury to one is an injury to all! All out to defend the ILWU!

In the wake of the sellout betrayal of the Longview EGT struggle by the ILWU bureaucrats, the longshoremen on the West Coast¹ are facing attacks by the Pacific Northwest Grain Handlers Association. These companies that operate Pacific Northwest grain terminals have presented the longshore union with what they say is their “last, best and final” contract offer on November 29th. The bosses are demanding huge concessions in job protections, bargaining rights and safety conditions. Half of the nation’s wheat exports flow through Portland and Puget Sound docks and involve terminals that handle about a quarter of U.S. grain exports, including wheat, corn and soybeans. The ILWU wields tremendous power that could be mobilized to win a big victory against the ruling class, not only for Longshoremen but for the entire working class and all the oppressed. They must not stand alone!



COP GRABS LONGSHOREMAN BY THROAT Don Ryan AP
Cont. pg. 3

The Arab Revolution meets NATO/Zionism

The current situation in the Middle East is one of a growing confrontation between the resurgent Arab democratic revolution¹ –popularly called the ‘Arab Spring’ now two years old – and imperialism represented by its military ‘gendarme,’ Zionist Israel. The US and EU imperialist powers are attempting to impose a ‘democratic’ counter-revolution, to prevent the working masses from



Gaza City Nov 18, 2012 Amhed Zakot Reuters

overthrowing their national bourgeoisies and breaking with imperialism. The global crisis means that revolution and counter-revolution are on collision course. Gaza is the first point of impact of the collision. The recent Israeli attack on Gaza was the imperialist gendarme testing the reliability of the Arab bourgeois factions to impose the imperialist ‘democratic’ counter-revolution. The outcome proves that the Zionist and Arab ruling classes are united against the mass base of the Arab Revolution.

Driving this confrontation is the worsening global crisis of capitalism. The imperialist powers are undergoing a severe recession brought about by falling profits and overproduction of capital.² This is not a ‘financial’ crisis but a deep structural crisis of capitalism. To restore profits the imperialist economies have to destroy \$trillions of capital value which is why the world

Marikana Solidarity up against Centrism and modern Menshevism

In periods of working class upheaval like those most starkly exhibited today in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA,) Greece, Southern Africa, Spain, and China, the working class struggles to free itself ideologically, politically and organizationally from the shackles imposed by generations of reformers, class collaborationist workers and bourgeois-workers parties which, when given the opportunity, willingly administer capitalism’s austerities against the workers in the name of labor. Alongside these reformist layers, the economist union bureaucracy and the labor aristocracy gathers a gaggle of “socialist” leaders, professors and academics who willingly reinforce ruling class hegemony by miseducating, stratifying, separating, localizing, limiting, demobilizing, and turning our class toward individualist and national solutions.

The labor fakers guide us to bloc with or directly enter capitalist political formations (e.g., the ANC in South Africa, the Democratic Party in the USA); as regards imperialism these fakers pragmatically adopt social-chauvinist campaigns (buy American, British jobs for British workers, often supporting anti-immigrant laws,) ignoring our internationalist duties and shaming our class credo, “An injury to one is an injury to all!” In times of counter-revolution and imperialist war these “do-good” reformists can quickly adapt and capitulate to the most backward and vile racist, jingoist and nationalist ideologies. They show their true colors and abandon any pretense to representing working class ascendancy.

Social Democrats voted for war credits in August, 1914, allowing WWI to commence rather than leading internationalist working class strikes to stop the war. Socialists became fascists in 1920’s Italy, the CPUSA restrained the working class with no-strike pledges, thus backing US imperialism in

Contents

Defend the ILWU	pg1
Arab Revolution meets NATO& Zionism	pg1
Marikana Solidarity lessons	pg1
Editorial: Obama Redux	pg 2
Labor’s Quiescence ending?	pg3
Trans Pacific Partnership Act:	
The NAFTA from Hell	pg 4
Mourn Bangladesh Organize Apparel	pg 13
Organize Wal-Mart	pg13
American Crystal Sugar Lockout	pg 14
Oakland Port Workers Assembly	pg 16
SEIU 1021 strike discussion	pg 17
GAZA: Defend Palestinian Resistance	pg 19
Labor Defender	pgs 20-23
What We Fight For	pg 24

Cont. pg. 7

Cont. pg. 9

Editorial: Obama Redux

Rather than getting sucked into the election season triumphalism coming from every broadcast medium some of us took in live entertainment, held at Oakland's Laney College an audience of young dancers and lovers of dance enjoyed And Still We Dance..."The Legacy Continues". Half way through the program we were presented a display of all the remaining illusions the black professional class has in the meaning of the Obama presidency. A piece entitled Trying Times was performed in front of a photo montage which opened with the haunting photo of black men lynched in the not so distant past then followed a time line of images we all know all too well, from the days of Emmett Till's bludgeoned corpse through the Montgomery bus boycott, to Bull Connor's attack dogs and fire hoses, the I AM A MAN picket signs from the Memphis Sanitation Strike, the fateful night on the balcony of the Lorraine motel, to the tearful eyes of Jesse Jackson on election eve 2008, a photo-shop image of Obama and MLK exchanging a high-five across the ages and zooming in on a poster board sign stating, "WE HAVE OVERCOME!"

A lot was made in this election cycle over the changing demographics and how minorities hold sway over the future of American politics. But we know change is not coming through the electoral system. After the Clintons and Obama's record it becomes clear that the ruling class gets its way regardless of who is in the White House and that these personalities got there in the first place by blowing smoke in your eyes. So we are even more concerned with who did not vote than with who voted. Of a total US population 314 million the black population is 13.1% or 41 million, of whom 23.7% or 32 million are 18 or older -voting age. This leaves about half the potential black voters not voting. How to explain this? A Princeton study shows that 25%¹ are ex felons and cannot vote, so that accounts for approximately 8 million black people disenfranchised, many for life leaving another 8 million not voting, some disenfranchised by reactionary anti black and poor vote suppression campaigns and the rest by choice or circumstance. Among whites of a potential 170 million voters, just more than half could be bothered. If some 80 million whites and 16 million blacks did not vote could it have something to do with their lack of faith in and buy-in to the system?

Who can blame close to half the population for not voting!? The Democrats avoided passing EFCA, derailed the movement toward a General Strike against Scott Walker, presided over a bail-out of the banks worth trillions, sustained the billionaire lifestyles of the 0.01%ers while our schools, programs for the elderly, for child health, for mental health etc. were slashed, and watched as we were thrown out of our homes by the millions. In the name of clean energy Obama has allowed hydrofracking to go forward despite the growing evidence cited by the US Geological Survey that "recent earthquakes are almost certainly man made,"² displacing the equilibrium of the geology, both by changing pressures and lubricating the faults. Despite playing to the left and the civil libertarians, Obama has used his power to torture and prosecute

Bradley Manning, has used his political police to infiltrate and intimidate Occupy and other activist groups, including the planting of agent provocateurs to set up and incarcerate young activists.

Overseas Obama stands tall, proud of his record of extra-judicial murders of American citizens, foreign nationals and scores of innocent civilians, collateral damage from drone warfare he now intends to unleash on American cities. Last month the Census Bureau explained that under their alternative measuring method 50 million³ lived in poverty in 2011. The extra four million bumps the figure above the official poverty rate of 15%, itself a staggering statistic for the so-called first world. Millions who want work remain unemployed while every month of positive job growth is reported as sign of a recovery. But despite job growth of 146,000 in November 2012 we must take account of the 250,000 young workers who monthly come on to the job market. The recovery on the stock market has not translated to jobs on the shop floor. CNN reports⁴ the recent drop to 7.7% unemployment in November was largely because 350,000 people dropped out of the job market. How could you explain it otherwise?



FREE MUMIA ABU JAMAL NOW

Considering the conditions we have to ask what is organized labor doing? CNN reports⁵ "During the 1970s, an average of 289 major work stoppages involving 1,000 or more workers occurred annually in the United States. By the 1990s, that had fallen to about 35 per year. And in 2009, there were no more than five." Drawing upon the work of Sociologist Jake Rosenfeld the report explains that strike infrequency is not a factor of the decline in manufacturing or industrial jobs, but rather of a bulwark of legal impediments constructed by the executive, the legislative and judicial branches of government taking union legal rights back

to a time before the NLRA.

Running in fear of fines which may destroy the pie-cards spot at the trough, strikes have all but been taken off the agenda. Even in the worse cases like the shuttering of NUMI there was not even a whiff of the old spirit of the Toledo Auto Lite strike/occupation from today's UAW. When workers do go out on strike the labor councils do little to build class wide support. Picket lines dwindle under threats of injunctions and the buddy buddy habit with the Democrats has produced nothing for labor. Workers need our own Party based in our own communities and upon our trade unions to fight for a workers government.

While claiming to support labor and even "throwing down" a kind word for the Republic Window and Door factory occupation in 2008 just after his election, his use of the coast guard to intimidate and defeat the longshoremen is the real face of Obama's class politics. Obama freed his right hand Rham Emanuel to go to Chicago his erstwhile home town to implement the comodification of education through privatizations, "rationalizations," the shut-

tering of ghetto schools and his failed attempt to break the Chicago Teachers Union.

While we lose manufacturing jobs here, he approves the sub-human conditions in the sweat shops around the planet that funnel profits to his funders in Silicon Valley, or the Waltons some of whose Wal-Mart brand clothing was being produced at the Bangladesh factory which locked its workers inside during a fire, burning 112+ to death in an inferno reminiscent of the Triangle Shirtwaist fire. Obama wants the TPPA, he wants to make sweat shops the industry norm across the Asia Pacific region. TPPA will trash what rights you have left as a consumer, even as a parent, and will exert a crushing downward pressure on stateside wages. Obama touts what the ACLU calls the "November 6 marriage moment" for LGBT but his TPPA will put needed medicines out of reach for tens of thousands of AIDS sufferers. Obama, still saddled with the task of assisting his old friends, from his days as a financial analyst on Wall St. in combating the Tendency of the Rate of Profit to Fall, is today the top enforcer of capitalism's world wide austerity program. Far from wishful thinking that "WE HAVE OVERCOME" it is time to realize that we have indeed been led to a mountain top of illusions, but this is not the Promised Land!

1 <http://paa2011.princeton.edu/papers/111687>

2 <http://crooksandliars.com/susie-madrak/oops-looks-fracking-can-cause-earthqu>

3 <http://money.cnn.com/2012/11/14/news/economy/poverty-americans/index.html>

4 <http://money.cnn.com/2012/12/07/news/economy/november-jobs-report/>

5 op. cit

Defend the ILWU cont from pg 1

As of December 7th, the grain companies have stated that they will not institute a lock-out. However a strike-breaking security and scab outfit from Delaware has been in Portland since September preparing for the event of a strike or lockout. And of course the Feds can always step in with injunctions. Obama deployed the Coast Guard2 to try to break last year's Longview struggle and Obama is doing the same here, with the Coast Guard departing from their pentagon authorized mission they are patrolling the Columbia River to protect against floating pickets for the grain monopolies.

This is shaping up to be a key labor battle.

It is vital to mobilize the labor movement, along with the unorganized, students and

the oppressed Black, Brown and immigrant communities to come to the common defense of the ILWU. This struggle could be a springboard for everyone, not only for fighting back against the attacks of capital, but also for organizing the unorganized workers, in particular the truckers.

The ILWU was forged through the famous 1934 General Strike led by the Stalinist Communist Party. This was one of three key strikes in 1934 that was the catalyst towards building the modern industrial labor movement in the United States. The ILWU has long stood as one of the vanguard unions of the American labor movement. It was the Bay Area ILWU Local 10 that has engaged in worker boycotts against Apartheid South-African and Iraq war cargo. ILWU Local 10 engaged in a work stoppage against the racist cop murder of Black youth Oscar Grant and they were the one union local that instituted a labor action in defense Mumia Abu Jamal and to support the Wisconsin public workers right to collective bargaining. If the bosses break the ILWU it will mean a major defeat for the entire working class. The once mighty UAW is today a shadow of its former self. We can't let this happen to the ILWU!

Along with the ILWU, the International Longshoreman Association (ILA) is also under attack on the East Coast as negotiations on a Maine-to-Texas contract have stalled. Their contract extension ends on December 29th. What should be done is to unite the struggles of the ILWU and the ILA for a joint, coordinated strike.

No concessions! It's time to fight!

All of labor must defend the ILWU!

Mobilize mass picket lines and worker defense guards to shut down the ports!

Ally with the Black, Brown and immigrant communities!

Defy the injunctions and smash Taft-Hartley through victorious labor struggle!

Defend the ILWU! An injury to one is an injury to all!

For ILA/ILWU solidarity! Shut down the ports coast-to-coast!

International labor solidarity from dock workers from Japan to Australia to South Africa!

1 <http://www.transportworkers.org/node/7>

2 http://www.oregonlive.com/business/index.ssf/2012/10/longshore_protest.html

** http://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2012/03/17/18709481.php?show_comments=1

Workers and oppressed are fighting back but where is the leadership? The period of "general quiescence" is coming to an end!

Along with the recent labor struggles on the West Coast, there have been flashpoints of working class struggle across the United States. Occupy Oakland shut down the ports, granted not with a real general strike, but through a blockade of workers and oppressed. San Francisco also saw the Muni temporarily shut down by Labor, Black and Brown and activists from Occupy in protest of the racist murder of Kenneth Harding, Jr., and other victims of police terror. New York City recently witnessed a strike of fast food workers while the largely immigrant Hot and Crusty workers won a union contract with a union hiring hall. Notoriously anti-union Wal-Mart has seen isolated strikes, actually at best small groups of workers walking out and risking their jobs culminating in hundreds of Black Friday protests across the nation. In November, SEIU local 1021, Port of Oakland workers, struck for one day while ILWU clerical workers engaged in a one-week strike at the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach.

The local 1021 leadership claims to have won a no-concessions contract. When we hear "no-concessions contract" we rush to hold our noses and wait to read the fine print. We already have ascertained the 1.25% annual pay raise over the four year contract does not cover the increase in the cost of living. This 1.25% has already been wiped out by food, energy and rent increases during the 14 months 1021 worked without a contract.

Wisconsin saw massive labor-centered protests against Walker's attacks on public sector unions and society at large. The sentiment that existed for a general strike in Wisconsin was diverted by the union bureaucrats into the losing strategy of the Recall and the Democratic Party. The Longview EGT ILWU Longshore struggle saw class struggle tactics that hadn't been seen in years. This struggle was also betrayed by the ILWU union bureaucracy who, in the words of Jack Heyman, "snatched defeat from the jaws of victory." In Chicago, a well-organized and solid strike by Chicago teachers was ended at the instigation of the reformist CORE CTU leadership at the very point when it should have been pushed forward as a fight for free, quality public education for the entire working class and oppressed.

Cont from pag 3 column 3

Trans Pacific Partnership Act: the NAFTA from Hell

There are definitely outbreaks of workers trying to organize and fight, but the problem is that labor struggles in the hands of the pro-Democratic Party, sellout labor skates or reformists like the ISO will at best likely only achieve a half-victory or go down to defeat.

What we know as the modern industrial labor movement was largely built during the 1930's by organizers and leaders who were ostensibly "Reds." They had an understanding that they were engaged in a class war and were willing to organize what was necessary to win. The three famous strikes of 1934 set the stage for the mass sit-down wave of a few years later. The 1934 San Francisco strike, the Minneapolis Teamster strike and the Toledo Auto-Lite strike were won through mass picket lines, workers defense guards, flying picket squads, and sympathy and general strikes. In San Francisco, Black and White solidarity was also key to winning while in Toledo, it was the Unemployed League in solidarity with the strikers that tipped the balance to victory. These are all lessons that need to be taken to heart by the working class today.

We need revolutionary leadership! We need a worker's party!

What is needed is a workers leadership that recognizes that Capital and Labor are mortal enemies and that this is an all or nothing fight. We need a class struggle leadership that will rise from the ranks to lead these labor struggles and that will organize strikes to shut down production through workers self-defense guards, mass pickets and sit-down strikes and that won't bow down before the anti-labor laws or labor boards. Organize class struggle union caucuses and committees within the unions to create a fighting union leadership! Agitate for and build a class struggle workers party!

We need a fighting workers party allied with all the oppressed that will throw the class war back in the faces of the bosses through all-out struggle against capitalism and that will fight for the class rule of the workers through workers councils and a workers government. We need a society that has rationally, centralized, democratically planned production and distribution for human needs and not profit. For workers rule!

We don't know beforehand the precise fiscal cliff "deal" Obama and Boehner will strike, but all versions will fire many thousands of government employees, as whole agencies are made to disappear. This will just be a warmup for the Trans Pacific Partnership Act and its secret provisions! Now that Obama is reelected and term-limited, there is no reason anymore to simply approve a raised debt ceiling. There is no desire to owe China more money, and when the bourgeois class feels ready for world war there won't be any reason to pay their debts either. The main enemy of the American workers is their "own" capitalist class, now hell bent on a "guns, not butter" policy! Meanwhile, with the TPPA they will be able to define the precise meaning of their "new world order." It won't be a philosophical question any longer, but a plan coming together to impoverish you!

At the November N.Y. City Central Labor Council (CLC) meeting the President, Brother Vincent Alvarez spent 10 minutes belaboring his point that the re-election of Obama was a great victory for labor. But scarcely were the words out of his mouth when he had to concede that we will have to fight for every nickel we get from this 'lame duck' congress. And so the CLC was to lay on a demonstration against the looming cuts to every social gain 'on the table' before the twin parties as they pretend to tussle before the "fiscal cliff." Was, except the leadership didn't have a call, an hour or a place for it to give the assembled Delegates! A serene world they must live in at their pay grade. You could, yes you sure could suspect them of being completely integrated into the state and complicit in concealing the nasty surprises the lame duck Obama will spring on us, his "legacy" as the leader of the executive committee of the capitalist class.

What we're talking about are the questions wherefore the "fiscal cliff" and where does the TPPA figure in the capitalists' plans? Just at the moment there is growth, slight growth, in the U.S. economy, but palpable and not just paper. U.S. companies are gaining orders at the expense of their European

and Japanese competitors in replenishing inventories of supplies for home construction, which replenishment had to resume some time. The ratio of government debt to the U.S. Gross Domestic Product hovers between 72 and 73%, a low figure for any modern state, so the hysteria about indebtedness is almost purely a camouflage driven by ideology. The banks want to call in 'theirs' and slash new borrowing by the state because everything that characterized the 20th century U.S. government, apart from being the trough for the military industrial complex and the paymaster for support programs for racist repression, is about to be shoved off the cliff and junked. This is the domestic content of the Trans Pacific Partnership Act, a NAFTA from Hell!



What is in store for us, unless we as labor and behind us the great masses defeat the T.P.P.A., is the onset of the complete triumph of capitalist anarchy. It is styled as a trade pact, but this is only a feature of what it is. Including the U.S., eleven ruling classes and counting around the Pacific rim are serving notice to their governments that henceforth there will be a visible hand at the top, above the mere state, which will decide the claims of "investor states" where they come into conflict with the laws protecting the nationals of any country. Decide to soak the treasuries of those countries for restraining their profits with 'prevailing wage' laws, with child labor protections, with trade union rights enumerated, with product safety and consumer and food and drug protections.

Internationally the TPPA has the aspect

Cont pg 5

of a showdown between the old hegemonic power of the U.S. and the rising power of Chinese imperialism. This makes life complicated for the signatories, some of whom, like Australia and New Zealand are members of Chinese Free Trade Pacts already. The New Zealand Trade Representative seems to be Washington's errand boy at the Auckland meetings, and looks to be unperturbed at the prospect of a trade war, an investment war and then a shooting war, with the U.S. Marines poised to move on any recalcitrant government from bases nearby. It has been revealed that the U.S. has arranged that his reward will be to become the head of the World Trade Organization!¹ Australian representatives have some idea of these war dangers and are so far opting out of the chapters that permit the TPPA courts to rule on what the Australian tax policies will be.

The left press credits Occupy Melbourne protests for this sudden sovereignty awareness, and we don't doubt it. They named the TPPA a "Power Tool of the 1%," and exposure generally works against easy ratification by the bourgeois politico drones. In the broadcast cited above a lawyer for the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (U.S.) spoke of the fight against the TPPA as a "class war" battle.² Funny how he can say this on cable TV in New Zealand. We never hear official representatives report to the union membership in these terms, and we don't miss many meetings! So the road ahead for this treaty is not necessarily altogether a smooth one. But a TV appearance on the far side of the planet is not a great assurance, any more than the tiny December 6 Herald Square CLC demonstration was! Class war battles are only "won" in courtrooms after the actual victories are won by mass actions of the workers. That's history, not opinion.

The task of champions of the liberation of the international working class is to close off this road to war! The U.S. seeks to line up the workers of the Pacific rim countries as cannon fodder with promises of more jobs. We say there is nothing in this for the worker but misery and death. Solidarity with the Chinese workers and all Pacific rim workers! Their battle against their bosses is the same fight as ours! We want a Socialist Federation of the Pacific!

We see the various reformist and Social Democratic tendencies freaking out over the TPPA. The reason they do so also invokes the fate of the international and domestic working class, but does not derive from the workers' interests. For the reformist and social democrat type, the diminution of the powers of parliaments and judiciaries in favor of the U.S. Executive Branch MEANS Bonapartism, which in fact it is. Their gradualist, linear and exclusive strategy of governments peacefully reforming themselves into workers' democracies is wrecked at one swoop by Obama and the robber barons. The TPPA puts these Bernsteins out of business, whether they realize it or not.

It gets worse! Everything activists thought they defeated in the SOPA (the Stop Online Piracy Act,) the PIPA (Protect Intellectual Property Act,) and ACTA (Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Act) is brought back with a vengeance in the TPPA, the signal feature of which thanks to the 600+ top U.S. and U.S.-owned multinational corporations who dominate the exclusive sessions is that this treaty (TREATY!!!) will not be modifiable, subject to reform or repeal except by action of ALL the signatory countries!

It has been pointed out that this could become the world's "last trade pact," {link to Lori Wallach}³ since membership would be open-ended in the future. Ask yourself what ruling class would not want to be above all provisions of the pesky laws resulting from the resistance of their working class. All the "Tax the Rich" campaigners will immediately be caught on the wrong foot as millions of additional jobs will be deported to a whole Pacific rim of sweatshops like those now in the Marianas. Should Japan sign the TPPA, it will want to do so to become the world's largest importer of US natural gas. Under provisions of the TPPA the state-by-state struggle against hydro-fracking will be obviated by the courts it establishes. State governments will find themselves powerless flak catchers. This is the American "disaster capitalism" Magna Carta of superior bourgeois right, subordinating all parliaments and coming home to roost as an invader, like a Mafia Godfather who says with justification that this is "just business."

This Act is a supremely American project and an alliance, in secret chapters, against China and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. This despite the spin-only, faux invitation to join the pact extended to China by Ron Kirk, the U.S. "Trade Representative," in the lead up to the December meeting of the secret membership of this capitalist cabal in a casino (!!) in Auckland, New Zealand. This alliance dovetails perfectly with the Pentagon's "Pacific Pivot" and makes a joke of the "theory" of the various neo-Kautskyans who see no special significance to the pact and believe there is now a stateless superclass of capitalists who practice a suprainperialism. So for example, with this theory neo-Kautskyans can imagine--and do they ever!--'progressive governments' that will not participate in this alliance.

In New York the reformist pro-Bolivarians ignore the murders of the Marikana miners and characterize the South African government as "progressive." Internationally this anti-Leninist trend has grown to a whole constellation of sects among the "3rd worldist" petit-bourgeois currents at the fringes of the workers movement. Many of these drank the Obama electoral Kool-Aid. Reformists in Occupy Wall Street had their own reporting general assembly subset known as "Occupy Canvass," which worked to get out the pro-Obama vote, a fool's errand given how the New York tally was never for a moment in doubt.

Sadly, New York had no fighting workers' labor party to expose this Treaty in the context of what it will do to the state's ability to respond to emergencies like Hurricane Sandy or the nor'easter that followed, when corporate income taxes will also be overruled by the judges in an international TPPA court, a Grover Norquist wet dream! A fighting workers' labor party would aim at nothing less than the complete smashing and suppression of the bourgeois political power, destruction of their state and eradication of the worksite dictatorship of the capitalist class.

Brother Alvarez, like Brother Trumka, loves Obama, who is four-square behind his handpicked Trade Representative Kirk. He loves Obama even though perhaps a third of the CLC Delegates are members of the AFL-CIO's "Association of Retired Americans."

¹ <http://tumeke.blogspot.co.nz/2012/12/citizen-tpa-special-with-mike-dolan.html>

² *op. cit.*

³ http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1AnmC9AktM&feature=player_embedded#!

Think for a moment how "Obamacare" was supposed to be a great boon to the elderly and was put up in our view for the last two years by the cynics on staff and the credulous Democrat suckers as the one accomplishment of Obama's first term. The TPPA will ban Obamacare's formulary group shopping provisions! This will be a windfall for "big pharma" and a death sentence for millions who no longer work. AIDS patients will once again feel outcast. Millions are already working indefinitely after age 65 (remember "retirement age?") to buy medicine AND eat.

In the eponymous movie the capitalist big (Mr.) Lebowsky tells the Dude "Your revolution is over. My condolences. Your side lost!" This film was much funnier than anything we are likely to experience in years to come if the TPPA is ratified and becomes the law above the law. It is not funny to think of how much the actor who played the big Lebowsky resembles Warren Buffett or how what he said prefigured Buffet's remark that there is a class war and his side is winning. It is time for the working class' side to have a great deal more fun at the capitalists' expense. We can begin to win by defeating the TPPA!

First we have to trash illusions in Obama and "friends of labor" in the two wings of the bourgeois party. Obama wants to "fast track" the approval of this pact. This means he would sign for the U.S. in place of the Senate, a body that pretends it would read and debate its contents and provisions, but is itself the plaything of the same corporations and multinationals, corrupted by their "contributions" in thousands of ways and even staffed by "revolving door" corporate loyalists temporarily on the taxpayers' payroll. Some reformists want you to continue to support this grand edifice of flimflam and simply demand that the Senate get their hands on and debate the TPPA. Then of course they'll reject it. That's one pipedream. Other reformists say to stake everything on supporting Obama against those who want to drive all social gains ('entitlements,' including Social Security) over the "fiscal cliff." That's another pipedream. The TPPA presumes a shrunk state that goes out of the business of the welfare of the taxpayer or anyone without a portfolio, a state that is a domestic and international force projector for Capital with a propaganda mystifier operation and some covert assassins on the side. Preparations for a world war to reassert U.S. imperial hegemony will pre-empt and exclude meaningful action to address global warming and its action on the environment and ecology. Seen in this way all workers will face having nothing to lose but our chains, just like the oppressed populations the rulers try to con us to despise. It's past time to finish with all of that ignorance, to unite with and defend the oppressed, because we have a world to win, as the old saying goes from the Communist Manifesto, for now we truly have no alternative.

We like the example of the November 14th Eurozone Strike Against Austerity, as far as it went. We wish it had been planned

as more than a one day, symbolic and blow-off-steam action by union leaderships who spend their days at spas with parliamentarians and the big money. But its international dimension is indeed the way to go. We see multinational Pacific rim strikes against the T.P.P.A. as the best way to smack down this NAFTA From Hell. In the U.S. such action will immediately require rupture of the Taft-Hartley Act, which our current generation of 'labor leaders,' really just Gompers-men, have grown to think of as the absolution from class conflict handed down by Moses. They forget that even Harry Truman called it a "slave labor act" and that it was a product of the witch hunt passed over his veto! Brother Trumka spent our dues money on a movie last spring applauding all the solidarity the membership exhibited in the preceding 12 months, then putting us up to stealth Obama electoral support work, in the form of a nationwide campaign for "America Wants to Work" legislation that was forgotten almost as soon as the film was developed. The CWG believes we will not see the Trumka leadership or any leaders of that ilk organize anything like the battle it will take to defeat the T.P.P.A. Remember EFCA? When Obama stopped mentioning

EFCA so did the limousine set pie cards. Clearly we need union renovation, with new leadership rising from the rank-and-file. We will help those who try! Fighting rank-and-file caucuses that develop class struggle program and action are what we need for our unions to survive and thrive. We need a fighting workers labor party based in and upon these union caucuses, nuclei of workers' councils and political power!

The Fight against the TPPA is a general emergency re-

quiring general strike action because the ruling class is intent on sneaking this by in a fascist style "*fatto compli.*"

Obama and Boehner! Back Off! The Fiscal Cliff is a LIE!

Abolish Taft-Hartley, Victory to the Port Workers!

TPPA? No way! No U.S. Bonaparte! No W.W. 3 Pacts!

No Cuts! No Layoffs! Jobs for All!

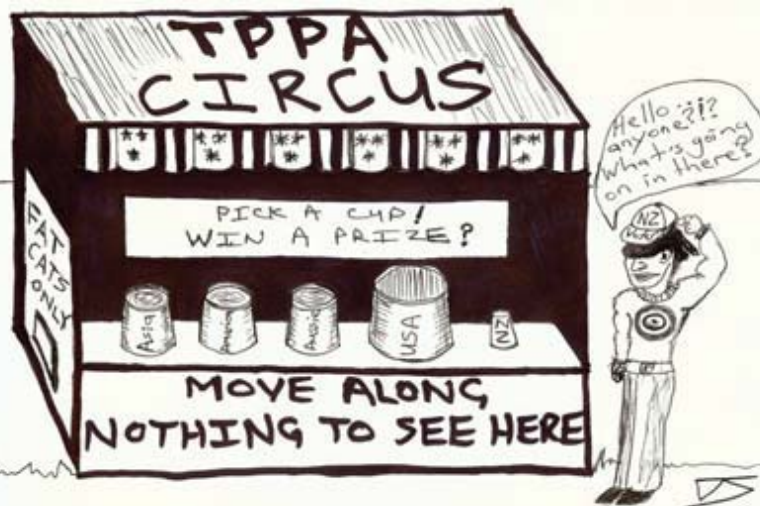
For Labor Defense of All Class War Prisoners!

Build Labor/Community Defense Guards to protect the Communities of the Oppressed!

End 'Stop and Frisk' now and forever! Cops out of schools! Billions for union jobs for youth! Not one penny for war with China!

We must see the Chinese working class as our allies in the class war! American workers need to solidarize with Chinese workers. On both sides of the pacific workers need to learn our main enemy is the capitalist class at home. Solve capitalism's crisis with a socialist federation of the Asia-Pacific!

TPPA is a power tool of the 1% and that tool is a Chainsaw! Save your own neck: Down with the TPPA!



Arab Revolution Meets NATO/Zionism cont from page 1 column 2

economy is still in a long depression.³ Made to pay for the crisis are the weaker capitalist powers and the world's workers and peasants and that means further austerity. Between 2008 and 2010 massive attacks on the workers and peasants living standards were launched. By 2010 resistance to these attacks were reaching explosive potential. When Mohamed Bouazizi set himself alight in Tunisia the masses of Middle East and North Africa (MENA) were ready to rise up. The Arab Revolution that had been frozen and driven back by dictatorships since the 1950s rose up and brought down one regime after another in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, while in Syria the regime is approaching its downfall.

The awakening Arab Revolution destabilised the rule of terror of the Zionist regime. Israel had reached a stalemate with Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza. Then came the wave of uprisings from Tunisia to Syria which strengthened the mass support for the isolated Palestinian Revolution. The Egyptian Revolution put the freedom of Palestine at the top of its program, thereby declaring its anti-imperialism and internationalism. The army deposed Mubarak and conceded the election victory of his successor Morsi of the Muslim Brotherhood (MB) to put the lid on the revolution calling for an end to Mubarak's treaty with Israel. The Libyan armed revolt exploded and threatened to spread across the whole Arab Revolution. It was contained by NATO intervention and bourgeois parliamentary elections.

The Syrian people began to resist al Assad's dictatorship and without imperialist support are today pushing to overthrow the regime. Under pressure from the Palestinian masses, Hamas broke with Iran to back the Syrian revolution against al Assad. This leaves Hezbollah as a proxy for Iran on the side of al Assad, weakened and isolated from the rest of the 'Arab Spring'. The weakening of Iran's influence in MENA reduces the pressure for direct US intervention beyond a CIA watching brief on 'Jihadists' in the Syrian opposition. The US is confident that it can find a pro-imperialist coalition government to impose a 'democratic counter-revolution'. Israel is not so confident. A revolution without imperialist strings attached could develop into a mortal threat to the Zionist state and to the Arab bourgeois factions who rule over the Arab masses. Israel has lost the support of al Assad as a counterweight to the Palestinian revolution. The Palestinian Diaspora in Lebanon, Syria and Jordan became embroiled in the Syrian war as under pressure from the masses in the camps the PLO and Hamas came out in support of the revolution against the Stalinist PFLF-GC who supported al Assad. Thus it is no surprise that the Arab Revolution threatened to break out of the 'democratic' counter-revolution at the major fault line, Gaza, where the Israeli and the Palestinian bourgeois factions staged another missile war to test the new balance of forces in MENA.

The Gaza attack has allowed the Arab and Israeli ruling classes to test their relative power and re-affirm their class alliance against the Arab masses. The result is that Israel re-affirms its military gendarme role against the armed Arab revolution, by doing a deal with the Palestine bourgeois factions, Fatah and Hamas, taking the pressure off al Assad, and reinforcing the MB rule in Egypt. The ceasefire signals that Israel has tested its defences and reached agreements with the 'moderate' Islamic regional powers Turkey and Egypt. Israel has fine-tuned its gendarme role to play tough

cop to the soft cop of US/NATO 'democratic' counter revolution. Imperialism has incorporated Israel into its 'solution' to the Arab Spring, the flowering of moderate Islamic regimes in a bloc with Israel against radical Islamic nationalism and against popular mass revolutions that are capable of breaking with imperialism.

Obama's foreign policy setting is to stabilise MENA as a secure base to pursue its vital hegemonic interests in the 'pivot' towards the Asia-Pacific. This requires a firm alliance between the Zionist and moderate Islamic nationalist regimes against the masses. The US will enlist the 'global community' to pressure Israel to re-open negotiations with Palestine for a 'two state' solution. Recognising Palestine as an UN 'observer' state is a move in that direction despite US official opposition. To the extent that Iran's allies on its borders weaken, Israel has less reason to threaten war with Iran. Thus Iran's significance will be less as a destabilising factor in MENA and more a focal point in the inter-imperialist rivalry between the US and China for control over the Asia-Pacific.

Permanent Revolution

This imperialist policy setting for MENA - that of 'democratic counter-revolution' - is inherently unstable not only because behind the fig leaf of parliamentary elections there are the naked austerity attacks on the working masses. Fundamentally 'democracy' in MENA is incompatible with the existence of Zionist Israel. The borders imposed by imperialism after WWI created artificial states, dividing and trapping nations such as the Kurds and other minorities. In the case of Israel however, imperialism allowed a new settler colony to drive the Palestinians off their land creating the Zionist 'nation' at the expense of the Palestine nation. Any claims by the Zionist state to 'democracy' are a lie since its very existence is at the expense of Palestinian national rights. Therefore, imperialism cannot impose stability on MENA by pretending to resolve the Palestine question, i.e. recognising Palestine and imposing a 'two state solution', as long as Israel continues to exist. Just as Palestine can only be freed by the destruction of the colonial settler state of Israel, the Arab masses cannot be freed without overthrowing the rule of imperialism and the national bourgeoisies that serve imperialism in the MENA. This means the Arab revolution must fight to complete the national bourgeois revolution by means of socialist revolution in the whole MENA region.

We can see what progress is being made in transforming the national into the socialist revolution. The most advanced front is in Syria where a popular 'peaceful' resistance movement was transformed by defections from the military into an armed insurrection. Here imperialism has not intervened directly to subordinate the popular rebellion to a 'government in waiting'. The militias are not controlled by the SNC or by any attempt by the US to set up a 'reliable' alternative to al Assad. Despite the imperialist legacy of splitting up nationalities and the deliberate sectarian incitement by the regime to weaken the opposition, the militias are broadly committed to an inclusive, tolerant bourgeois democracy. Any attempt by imperialism to prevent or hijack the victory will turn the insurrection against imperialism. The Syrian revolution has already reactivated the Palestinian revolution so the two cannot be isolated. The question of whether a victorious Syrian revolution and the Palestinian revolution can be contained by a 'democratic'

Arab Revolution continue from page 7

counter-revolution will depend on wider developments in the Arab Revolution.

While the revolution has been driven back by force in Kuwait, and so far contained by an Islamic regime in Tunisia, the resistance in Jordan where the majority are Palestinians has taken to the streets protesting against fuel price rises and calling for the downfall of the regime. This shows that while the revolution may be stalled or pushed back in some countries, in others it is moving ahead. Those who are being driven back or are just beginning their struggle need to look to the most advanced struggles to learn the lessons of how to fight for permanent revolution. If we look at Syria, Libya and Egypt we can see that some of the conditions for permanent revolution exist, while others have yet to be created.

Libya is the only other front of the Arab Revolution where the armed struggle succeeded in overthrowing a national dictatorship. It must be remembered that strength of the rebel army resulted from defections from Gaddafi's armed forces. This is a key development that allowed the rebel army to win without becoming subordinated to NATO. NATO intervened to prevent the war of liberation from dragging on like in Syria and sparking a wider Arab war. It succeeded in installing a parliamentary regime but has not been able to disarm the militias or form a stable government. The recent attack on the Benghazi US Consulate shows that the US has some way to go to create a 'reliable' client state in Libya. While the elections have been widely supported the masses have yet to see any relief from the austerity of the Gaddafi dictatorship. The militias remain armed and the potential to overturn any austerity regime exists. This fact shows that it is vital for the Syrian revolution to build and maintain a popular militia independent of imperialism and of any pro-imperialist national regime.

In Egypt the popular revolution did not arm itself or take power. The military regime replaced Mubarak with Morsi of the MB as a 'democratic' facade, but this has already proven unstable. Morsi has assumed total power to rush a new constitution through that will guarantee a MB majority in a new parliament. The MB knows that its middle class support base will not survive mass resistance to the austerity measures that the IMF demands. It wants to create a constitutional front that allows an Islamic bloc backed by the military to restore a dictatorship. This has revived the revolution on the streets but the masses do not have the power to bring down the Government. Demands that Morsi retracts his assumption of total power or resign cannot be enforced as it could be in Libya by the armed militias. What is lacking in Egypt is any popular power based on industrial action or more importantly winning over the base of the army. Both of these essential conditions were never seriously fought for by the revolution of the streets. To realise them now requires a fight for a revolutionary constituent assembly to unite the masses and the base of the army to bring down Morsi and his middle class MB dictatorship.



Permanent revolution means that to win the most basic democratic rights, such as Palestine liberation, such as a constitution that reflects the popular working masses and not just the middle class in Egypt, such as a popular victory over the al Assad regime in Syria, it is necessary to arm the popular struggle. In Palestine the resistance to Israeli occupation has always come from the masses not the Fatah or Hamas bourgeois leaderships. In Libya and Syria, the masses were armed when militants and defectors from the army joined forces. In Egypt, the fight to bring down Morsi will mean winning over the base of the military and uniting it with armed militias based on the organised workers. This will open the road to popular democracy and to bourgeois democratic republics. Yet,

in semi-colonies dominated and super-exploited by imperialism, the national bourgeoisies serve as agents of imperialism to rule over the super-exploited masses. The bourgeois democratic republic must always revert to an open bourgeois dictatorship unless it is overthrown and turned into a proletarian dictatorship. For the working masses to survive they must insist on retaining their armed independence from the bourgeois regimes and take the fight to imperialism. We can see that this is necessary in the whole of MENA just as the liberation of Palestine necessitates the destruction of the Zionist imperialist enclave.

A new revolutionary international

The Arab masses are fighting to complete their national revolution against imperialism in crisis and the national bourgeoisies that act as its agents. Their spontaneous demands are to reform the state so that they are not victims of exploitation and oppression. The default ideology of capitalism is that individual citizens are equal and that once a majority mobilise for equal rights this can be won. In Libya, Gaddafi was seen as the problem. In Egypt, Mubarak was seen as the problem. In Syria al Assad was seen as the problem. The revolutions against these dictatorships aim to create egalitarian bourgeois democracies. The problem is that in the epoch of imperialism bourgeois democracy is incompatible with the survival of global capitalism. Once dictatorships are overthrown, new dictatorships must arise in their place. This is particularly true of semi-colonies where imperialism must use the national regimes to repress mass resistance to super-exploitation.

This means that to win the most fundamental bourgeois democratic rights the bourgeois ruling class must be overthrown and replaced with a socialist republic – the dictatorship of the working majority over the exploiting minority. For this to happen, the most advanced workers must have a program to lead all working and oppressed people to socialist revolution. In the Arab states socialism has been repeatedly betrayed. First, by the Western social imperialists of the rotten Second International who turned their backs on national struggles; second by the Stalinists of the rotten Third International who aligned themselves with the national bourgeoisies during

the national struggles; and third the fake ‘Trotskyists’ who made friends with Gaddafi and al Assad and co., and today give critical support to the national bourgeoisies. Those who pass themselves off as revolutionaries like the Revolutionary Socialists of Egypt vote for bourgeois governments. There is no revolutionary party embedded in the working class in any of these countries that fights for a clear transitional program that lays out the road forward from the struggle for immediate and democratic demands and shows how these can only be won by an armed insurrection – the Permanent Revolution. Building such a party as part of a new socialist international party is the most important and urgent task facing revolutionaries.

**SMASH THE ZIONIST STATE OF ISRAEL! FOR A SECULAR, SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF PALESTINE!
DOWN WITH BOURGEOIS REGIMES—THEY SERVE THE IMPERIALIST MASTER!
US/NATO/CHINA HANDS OFF THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA!
DOWN WITH THE REACTIONARY BOURGEOIS CONSTITUTIONS OF TUNISIA, LIBYA AND EGYPT!
FOR REVOLUTIONARY CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLIES FOR ALL FROM 16YRS OF AGE!
FOR WORKERS COUNCILS, WORKERS MILITIAS, POOR FARMERS COUNCILS, COUNCILS OF THE MILITARY RANKS! FOR GOVERNMENTS OF WORKERS COUNCILS!
FOR A FEDERATION OF SOCIALIST REPUBLICS OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA!**

1 <http://redrave.blogspot.co.nz/2011/01/revolutions-in-north-africa-and-middle.html>
2 <http://thenextrecession.wordpress.com/2012/11/25/the-us-rate-of-the-profit-the-latest/>
3 <http://thenextrecession.wordpress.com/2012/11/30/us-its-investment-not-consumption/>
4 http://www.salon.com/2012/11/30/are_syrias_rebels_on_the_verge_of_victory/
5 <http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2012/11/is-hamas-really-a-surrogate-of-iran/265658/>
6 Ibid.
7 http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/palestinians-in-syria-forced-to-pick-sides/2012/11/25/c38d57c6-3577-11e2-bfd5-e202b6d7b501_story.html
8 <http://www.maannnews.net/eng/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=533209>
9 <http://redrave.blogspot.co.nz/2012/11/chinaus-rivalry-for-asia-pacific.html>
10 <http://cwgsa.wordpress.com/2012/07/20/the-egyptian-revolution-the-electoral-road-to-imperialist-stabilization-vs-the-road-to-workers-power/>
11 <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/29/world/us-is-weighing-stronger-action-in-syrian-conflict.html?hp&r=2&>
12 <http://syriafreedomforever.wordpress.com/2012/11/27/position-regarding-jabhat-al-nusra-similar-groups-and-suicides-bombings/>
13 <http://redrave.blogspot.co.nz/2012/06/civil-war-in-syria-workers-organise-to.html>
14 <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/16/us-jordan-protest-idUSBRE8AF0LK20121116>
15 <http://redrave.blogspot.co.nz/2011/09/advance-libyan-revolution.html>
16 <http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/0/59495/Egypt/0/Live-Updates-Friday-protests-against-Egypt-draft.aspx>
17 <http://cwgsa.wordpress.com/2012/07/20/the-egyptian-revolution-the-electoral-road-to-imperialist-stabilization-vs-the-road-to-workers-power/>

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Mariak Solidarity up against Centrism and modern Menshevism cont.

socialists refused to unconditionally defend North Vietnam and the National Liberation Front during the devastating conventional and chemical warfare which left the Democratic and Republican Parties with the blood of three million dead Vietnamese on their hands. These reformist individuals and parties still dominate the leadership of the working class and the so-called ‘left’. They are a major impediment on the road to socialism but not the only one.

Sometimes out in front, always claiming to march alongside yet most often tailing just behind and holding back the most militant and revolutionary workers is a layer of subjectively revolutionary yet objectively centrist individuals and organizations who spare no effort in telling us, “another world is possible,” that “21st century socialism” is on the agenda. In the post-capitalist economies many of the same centrists adapt to the pressures of bourgeois democratic forces and shamelessly maintain that mar-

ket reforms are necessary for the growth of productive forces and thus advance the historic interest of the working class in a period while capitalist markets dominate the global economy(!)

On the plane of theory centrists gather to themselves a layer of academics who squeeze Marxism into underconsumptionist crisis theory and at times put forward aspects of program they can emphatically point towards, despite ultimately balking at class independence. If drawn as a Venn diagram, the centrist layer would span the gamut intersecting theoretically, organizationally and programmatically with reformism on the right, with anarchism, situationism and councils communists in the middle, and revolutionary Marxism on the left. Their “common sense,” pragmatic and often eclectic method traps them in a tug of war between the revolutionary aspirations of the most oppressed workers and adaptation to capitalist exploitation made tolerable via material benefits doled out to ever-thinning strata of workers. In periods of pre-revolutionary and revolutionary uprisings the centrist layers, despite their best intentions, objectively act to hold back the class and disarm it in the face of counter-revolution, capitalist restoration, fascist reaction and inter-imperialist war.

During this period, like others in the past, this dangerous and contradictory phenomenon - centrism traps the working class in its own conundrum - despite having its hands on the levers of production, layers of the class most closely linked to the labor aristocracy and small proprietors embrace the “logic” of centrism which looks as if it intends to give capitalism its death blow but holds back the historical and theoretical lessons which the class needs to derive the political and organizational forms and programmatic direction necessary for victory.

In the face of what may be the working class’ last chance to save the planet from the environmentally destructive anarchy of capitalist production, centrism plays possibly the most dangerous role blocking the working class from its self-liberation. Objective conditions force workers to fight capitalism (the polls show a disaffection from abject support for capitalism, especially among young workers and even in the USA,) Social Democratic treachery will drive the workers from the Reformists (Greece and Spain,) and there with open arms stand the full spectrum of centrism awaiting the disaffected workers looking for their road to power (instead, Synapismos dragged SYRIZA to the right.)

Epoch of Wars and Revolutions

In our epoch-that of capitalist crisis, of revolutions and counter-revolutions, of inter-imperialist wars and proxy-wars which often begin as currency or trade wars, the resolution of the contradictions driving society from one tragic episode of imperialist war and counter-revolutionary bloodletting to the next, while testing the life-sustaining limits of the planet lies only with the working class leading their allies the poor peasants, the dispossessed, the unemployed, the youth, the retirees, those dependent on social services and oppressed peoples and nations across the planet, to remake the world according to their own plan and in their own interests. History reveals that class consciousness more often than not lags behind objective necessity and that the class as a whole is only episodically drawn into self-activity, therefore the

Cont. pg. 10

theoretical, organizational and programmatic preparations for the **working** class coming to power can only be made by the class-conscious revolutionary workers--the leadership that the working class organizes into its own international combat party.

Internationally productive forces stagnate. Finance capital trapped in the contradictions between the need to engage labor in order to produce surplus value (and thus add to the available reservoir of profit derived from goods production from which the biggest capitalist overlords drink) and the negative incentive, the tendency of the rate of profit to decline, inexorably places limits on productive investment as opposed to speculative investment in financial instruments (which, while they may gather profit to their investors from the reservoir of productively produced surplus, they do not add to the volume of industrial or agriculturally produced goods available for consumption.)

In turn, internationally, the workers' share of the available products of their own labor power must be diminished for capital to rationalize the vast reservoir of fictitious capital accumulated in the speculative bubbles chased around the world markets by the big capitalists looking for investment opportunity for vast quantities of stagnating and fictitious capital. To diminish the workers share, the austerity must be imposed for profitability to return to productive investment. Workers conditions are attacked today by the bosses gendarme layers of enforcers of austerity, the economic hit men of the IMF and World bank, the politicians promoting "free trade" nightmares like NAFTA and TPPA, the corporate media, the political agents of the ruling class in the workers' organizations, and when the workers push back; by the armed body of the state, i.e., the police and national guard, citizen-council-thugs, scab herders, and as a last resort fascist gangs drawn from the most alienated of the criminal element, from the lumpenproletariat and the ruined petty bourgeoisie.

In its struggle for ascendancy the task of building an independent international revolutionary working class party that stands above limited national programs, that unites the workers of the world programmatically and organizationally is the primary task facing the working class today. A revolutionary international is required to unite workers across borders to mobilize, educate itself and prepare the working classes of all nations for our historic task; the formation of class-wide shop-floor/office/factory/mine and farm organs of workers' power, service and domestic workers' committees, their networking, the building of popular assemblies (cordones industriales) and delegated councils intent upon building socialism via the transitional tool of a workers' government which will take action, put capitalism out of our misery by expropriating the big capitalist enterprises (the extraction industries, the major manufacturing industries, the distribution, communications, pharmaceutical, medical and financial houses including banks, credit and investment firms) and placing them under workers self-management and running them according to plans developed by the workers' representatives attuned to the environmental and redistributive requirements for remediating the environmental destruction as well as the historic toll on the billions kept in devastating poverty by capitalism.

Holding back the advance of the working class toward the real-

ization of its own independent and revolutionary party, the centrists across the board unite behind the work of various academics whose crisis theory befuddles the workers into the mistaken idea that radical yet modest and reasonable structural adjustments to capitalism can be accomplished, transforming the workers conditions. Underconsumptionist theory places the crisis of over-accumulation in the realm of consumption rather than production.

The under consumption theorists make the crisis one of falling wage share of the working class as an income class (what Marx calls 'revenue' classes at the end of Capital Vol. 3,) so the state becomes the site for a distributional struggle over income shares (i.e., minimum wage, duration and amount of unemployment insurance, tax burden on working class, pensions, national insurance, etc.) At the level of international relations this theory translates to supra-imperialism and in the current situation a US super-imperialism. Income shares are represented at the subjective



level as apolitical, trade unionist economism. The centrist loudly declaims for revolution but practices economism. Whereas, if falling profits cause crises despite rising exploitation and independent of wage shares, then the crisis of capitalism cannot be resolved by distributional 'structural reforms' but only by expropriation of the 0.01% and the reorganization of production by the workers for human need and by

their own plan. The break from economism requires the understanding of the Tendency of the Rate of Profit to Fall ¹ (TRPF) as Marx explains it.

Marikana Solidarity: Our experience and some observations

On August 16th of this year we of the CWG, together with our international co-thinkers in the Liaison Committee of Communists, proposed solidarity actions with the murdered and striking Marikana and other South African mine workers. We wrote our first leaflet and blog statements on the subject that night and spent the next day beating the Bay Area bushes for support for an ASAP demonstration of this solidarity. Before another week went by there was enough far-left agreement for a solidarity committee to "exist," and it exists. We could scarcely say it was formed. Not only was this not a propaganda bloc, as some who have fetishized a 'principle' that only a revolutionary party or perhaps also its union caucuses may raise transitional demands, but the committee has so far failed to adopt a mission statement ². There are a number of centrists who have their own reasons for preferring that the committee have only a logistical and no political agreement. Each dreams of turning this movement (!!! There's hardly a movement) into an uncritical cheering squad for the South African political grouping of their choice, or to position her/himself to broker the support of major Bay Area union officials (a vain hope, as we said and as it turns out.)

One of these is the well-known spokesperson for the Democratic Left Front (DLF). Judging by two months of what he has said and what he has not, including his articles in *Amandla*, the public organ of the DLF, we would have to say he has a functionally

Menshevik conception of the South African revolution. This is not merely his personal view of how matters stand, either. Was there a Lenin? Does he matter nowadays? You'd never guess from the front page Amandla article "Crisis and Alternatives" of Dec. 11 by Achin Vanaik. He begins by playing up to the left and even seems to contradict the more usual "underconsumptionist" view expressed in Amandla, saying crisis is the natural product of capitalism. But he drops that subject almost right away. Was there a revolution in Russia? He doesn't mention it at all, and it doesn't appear in the discussion of desirable economic organization models and examples, which is glaring given what he says the purpose of the analysis was.

Do you see mention of taking power? Yes, they say you can't fool yourself about that. But there's no mention of a revolutionary party, scarcely any mention of the working class, and instead we have a discussion of what "coalitions of progressive forces" can accomplish, what reforms (yes, they said it) would amount to alternatives to the capitalist crisis. "Progressive alternative" is the big concept here, and it boils down to making finance capital a utility owned by the state; the state, but not under workers' control, the state he finds so very useful for regulation and conflict resolution between competing capitals and international stability in the abstract. We were just thinking about this and how it sounds like a Cliffite International Socialist Organization (ISO) fake socialist "campaign" when the Zimbabwe comrades of the Revolutionary Workers Group warned us that the local I.S.O had put out the call to form a DLF in Zimbabwe! If none of this sounds like the dictatorship of the proletariat to you, it doesn't sound like one to us either.

Now of course the DLF can say this is a signed, guest article, and disown any part of the content if put on the spot. But it is in the discussion of what southern hemisphere nations (!) can do to mitigate the natural crises of capitalism and the collisions of states in competition that the author shows his true colors. He employs indirect but nevertheless unmistakable language to propose that the states of the southern hemisphere would be better off fighting American 'hegemonism' by allying themselves with the economic projects of China and Russia, and he discounts as a much less likely development the rise of Chinese Asia-Pacific 'hegemonism' to the point of contesting U.S. 'hegemonism.' How is this Metternich-style combination calculus calling itself a dialectic different than the foreign policy - or is it retail advertising? - of the tri-partite Popular Front? From the "market" or "21st Century" phony socialism it is eager to embrace? Perhaps being "serious about power" as they say on their masthead logo means doing what the Popular Front only proposes to do.

And what of the South African Popular Front? The author doesn't mention it at all, and he is supposed to be addressing the reasons why the southern hemisphere has not seen the masses on the streets fighting austerity the way the European masses have. He puts it all down to manipulations of national and ethnic hatreds by the hegemonic U.S.(!) and the dollar economy. Workers' champions need to put the DLF on the spot about all of the above and accept no baloney. How do they differ from the Kautskyians of a hundred years ago who fudged on the question of the fate of the bourgeois state to placate the reformists and for the same reason dodged on how the workers were to come to power?

Amandla!, the journal of the DLF serves up a watered down Marxism where crises have so many contingent aspects that they can in part be managed by a broad anti-capitalist front which does not exclude popular fronts. For example, Foster and McChesney³, editors of the Monthly Review in an article on the global financial crisis continue the underconsumptionist school of Baran and Sweezy. Long term stagnation is caused by financialization, the "stagnation-financialization trap". But what caused stagnation? In the last paragraph before the section on 'The ambiguity of global competition' we find the main point: Prices rising ahead of labor unit costs! That is, relatively falling real wages leads to market saturation which then becomes overproduction of commodities. Hence the classic Monthly Review school of underconsumption.

Rémy Herrera suggests underconsumptionist theory in "Reflections on the Crisis and its Effects"⁴, also published in Amandla: *"This over-accumulation manifests itself through an excess of saleable production, not because there are not enough people who need or desire to consume, but because the concentration of wealth tends to prevent an increasingly large proportion of the population from being able to buy the merchandise... The neo-liberal regime has thus been unable to maintain growth except by doping to death the demand of private consumption while promoting lines of credit to the maximum. It is this exorbitant expansion of credit that has ended by revealing the crisis of over-accumulation in its current form. In a society where increasingly large numbers of individuals are being excluded and without rights, the expansion of outlets offered to the principal owners of capital can only delay the devaluation of the excess capital placed on the financial markets, but it can certainly not avoid it."*

For their part, Panitch and Gindin⁵ ignore the fundamental causes of crisis and focus on different forms each time. They think the 1970's crisis was resolved by neo-liberalism and that this "new" crisis is not caused by falling profits. They have special emphasis on the state as site of class struggle which logically lends itself to "structural reforms". These guys are not Marxists but empiricists.

The Democratic Left Front in South Africa and the entire layer of World Social Forumites, NGO lovers, ISO/SWPers, hand in hand with anarchists and Occupiers are drawing to themselves layers of anti-capitalist youth whom they seek to poison with anti-Leninism masked as anti-Stalinism. They appear to deny the inter-imperialist struggle and recreate the Kautskyite supra-Imperialism with the USA as the super imperial power. Thus they make little of the inter-imperialist struggle between the US/UK bloc and the China bloc. Meanwhile Africom is preparing for a bloodbath across Africa as wars for resources proliferate. They embrace the theorists (Chomsky, Harris, Harvey, Panitch, Sangar) from whose ilk we are presented underconsumptionist crisis theory which blames the crisis on the symptoms, leading them to Keynesian solutions and limiting demands (i.e., calling for nationalization of the mines but not calling for workers control and not demanding there be no compensation for the big capitalists.)

The Democratic Socialist Movement

We haven't encountered any Taffeites face-to-face in the solidarity effort to date in the U.S. Nevertheless, who and what the "Committee for a Workers International"(CWI) is and their errors generally and those of their South African affiliate, the

Cont .pg.12

“Democratic Socialist Movement” (DSM) are questions we will need answers for as they attempt to fill the political void to the Communist Party’s left. They have garnered some international attention from all the blame and denunciations (and also repessions) heaped on them lately by the Vavi leadership of COSATU, the trade union federation that is integral to the Popular Front state. We think the DSM wants into a Popular Front government, which certainly would have to make some disagreeable anti-austerity and wage concessions to the masses to accommodate them. How is that, you ask?

The CWI is another anti-Leninist tendency originating in Britain, where it is an attempt to revive a Labour Party that really never was, i.e., an actual 2nd International type Socialist Party, and not the actual, and from day one, ‘bourgeois-workers party’ that is the 2nd International, pro-imperialist outfit. An affiliate of the CWI in Eire has had some traction on a similar, if somewhat more historical basis, only neglecting that most Socialists who were not wiped out in 1916 went on to found the Irish CP. The Irish Socialist Party has seats in the Dial Eirann. One almost never hears from or about them over the din of continuous scandals there. The DSM was at first a small socialist split from the African National Congress, only later rallying to the CWI.

In South Africa what causes the migraines for the Vavi COSATU leadership is the DSM’s call for a “new mass party of labor,” i.e., an old social-democratic, Labour Party, such as they mistakenly think the British model was. The COSATU leaders are sharing power with the ANC and have real privileges and Mercedes to lose! Such a new party would fill seats in Pretoria and share power in coalitions, just as the actual Labour Party in the U.K. always did. We are encouraged that they reject the Krugman Keynesian economic view that the present crisis of capitalism is “superficial” and “unnecessary” and that a macroeconomic policy of government spending in the U.S. could cure the world economy with full employment in two years. They quote Karl Marx from the Communist Manifesto in their most recent webzine on the nature and cause of capitalist crises. But we don’t know if they explicitly reject underconsumptionism, for a fact.

Knowing how to compile a list of scandals and the right capitalists to blame is useful but the indispensable remedy for capitalist crises, the politically organized armed uprising of the proletariat for the smashing of the bourgeois state and its replacement by their own self-organized power is absent from their pages. We think the workers have to take control of their Local Unions and break with the COSATU leaders and the Popular Front. We are for the permanent revolution! We are for a Socialist Federation of Southern Africa, and not in the never-never land of a second stage of the revolution that never comes and for which the various Menshevisms have no actual plans. We think that forming a new parliamentary party of a type that proved everywhere to be useless and ultimately an obstacle, just because momentarily it seems to suit a mood of the masses and is therefore possible and can fit you out with perks is a terrible opportunist error.

Permanent Revolution not Centrism

The Liaison Committee of Communists warns the workers and anti-capitalist youth that the only class that can defeat capitalism

is the working class, that the popular front is the consequence of the two stage theory and that workers must not be drawn into a bloc with capitalist parties or enter the capitalist government. The workers party does not enter politics to administer the capitalist state but to bring it down and form a workers state. Any left front that does not clearly state and stand by this understanding is not left at all but a radical petty bourgeois movement which will prevent the workers from finding their road to power.

Furthermore, there is an international layer of fakers who claim not to be leaders, who claim to be listeners, who claim they will follow the lead of the “real workers” and not show up with any pre-conceived program. Nevertheless, these fakers are actually leaders, no matter how much they deny it. They are leaders who are today telling the workers, “you don’t need your own revolutionary party, you don’t need to maintain class independence, you don’t need to develop a transitional program to help workers advance from their minimal day to day demands to the logic of a workers government, you don’t need to understand the pitfalls of Stalinism.” THEY ARE LEADERS BUT THEY ARE LEADING THE WRONG WAY!

To defeat capitalism workers need their own revolutionary party and a revolutionary workers’ international that unites workers of the world in the face of pending inter-imperialist wars. The formations that oppose the building of such a party are transmitting the ideology of the ruling class into the workers movement by trying to keep the workers from having their own independent and revolutionary party. The DLF in SA runs from Stalinism but only critiques its authoritarianism and the cronyism that it has degenerated into. It does not critique Stalinism as a social phenomenon and therefore the break of Mazibuko Jara (a DLF founder and spokesperson) and others from the South African Communist Party (SACP) is incomplete and either ignores or denies (but has not stated) that the pitfall of Stalinism is its reversion to the Menshevik two stage theory, which the SACP embraced and implemented, abandoning proletarian revolution for the “National Democratic Revolution.”

Only the theory of permanent revolution can explain why the African revolution stagnated and has produced a continent of semi-colonial states which have not attained their independence from imperialism and which today are being prepared, by competing imperialisms, as the battle grounds over which world monopoly of essential resources and super-exploitable labor will be fought in the coming decades. The theory of Permanent Revolution holds that the weak bourgeois classes of the semi-colonial and ex-colonial countries cannot break with imperialism and therefore cannot complete the national democratic tasks of the bourgeois revolution. Only the working class can complete these tasks through the agency of the dictatorship of the proletariat in an uninterrupted revolution that carries bourgeois democracy to its conclusion and carries society beyond to the socialist reorganization of production for human need.

1 <http://thenextrecession.wordpress.com/2012/07/11/gravity-the-higgs-boson-and-the-law-of-the-trpf/>

2 <http://cwgusa.wordpress.com/2012/11/13/discussion-of-statement-of-purpose-for-the-south-africa-mine-workers-solidarity-committee/>

3 <http://www.amandlapublishers.co.za/special-features/global-financial-crisis/1381-the-endless-crisis-by-john-bellamy-foster-and-robert-w-mcchesney>

4 <http://www.amandlapublishers.co.za/special-features/political-economy/1216-reflections-on-the-current-crisis-and-its-effects-by-remy-herrera>

5 <http://www.amandlapublishers.co.za/special-features/global-financial-crisis/630-capitalist-crises-and-the-crisis-this-time-by-leo-panitch-and-sam-gindin>

ORGANIZE THE APPAREL INDUSTRY WALL TO WALL INTERNATIONALLY FROM FACTORY THROUGH DISTRIBUTION TO RETAIL

The Stand with the Wal-Mart strike leaflet that follows was distributed at the Black Friday Wal-Mart Picket line in Richmond, CA. The support rally in Richmond was well attended by 200+ labor and community activists and was one of hundreds held at Wal-Marts around the country this November 23rd. Just days later the world was made aware that the workers burned to death in Bangladesh were producing clothing for Wal-Mart, the Gap and other multinationals. The inspectors' "clean bill of health," which big name retailers require of the factories where their products are made, are notorious for their falsity and the corporations know it.



Funeral for Bangladesh workers killed by Wal-Mart & Gap/Khurshed Rinku/AP

The leaflet below was written by Paul who describes himself as an independent socialist and China defencist with whom we have an interesting correspondence on China and a range of questions. We find a lot to like about this leaflet and will want to pursue these discussions. Irksome for us is the absence of any reference to China's role as Wal-Mart's primary source of supply.

Does the law of value operate in factories producing for Wal-Mart? Does the operation of the law of value in China drive, dominate and run roughshod over the plan? In upcoming numbers of Class War we will explore the question of the Class Characteristics of the Chinese State and the conditions of labor of the Chinese Working class and what these means for the working class internationally. The CWG sees China as a capitalist state and emerging imperialist world power.

1 http://redrave.blogspot.com/2009/12/fti-minority-report-on-current-world_25.html

Stand with Wal-Mart Strikers!
Unionize Wal-Mart! Fight for Union wages,
conditions and benefits!
Re: "Making Change at Wal-Mart" The problem
with the slogan, "I want to work full-time!"

"Making Change at Wal-Mart is a campaign challenging Wal-Mart to help rebuild our economy and strengthen working families. Anchored by the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), we are a coalition of Wal-Mart associates, union members, [and others] ... who believe that changing Wal-Mart is vital for the future of our country."

"...If you are a Wal-Mart employee, join the Organization United for Respect at Wal-Mart (OUR Wal-Mart).

"The average full time Wal-Mart 'associate' makes about \$15,000 a year. And worse, Wal-Mart is pushing more and more workers toward a permanent part-time status. Meanwhile, the six members of the Walton family-heirs to the Wal-Mart fortune and near majority owners of the company-have a combined wealth of \$93 billion. That's more than the bottom 30% of Americans combined."

--"About," Making Change at Wal-Mart website.

Google: "OUR Wal-Mart." [www.http://forrespect.org](http://www.forrespect.org)
Signs in photograph: "I Want to Work Full Time."

Wal-Mart is not unique in dividing workers into two-tiers: "full-time" and "part-time." In the 1997 UPS Teamsters strike, the abuse of "part-time" workers with lower wages and less benefits was a major grievance. Official Teamsters picket signs said, "Part-time America won't work!" and "Full-time or No time!" UPS made some concessions on the issue of part-time workers, and what was the result? Some part-time workers were promoted to full-time, while other part-time workers were laid off, lost their jobs, and joined the millions of unemployed.

"Solidarity" means that we fight for the unity and integrity of the whole working class, black and white, native born and foreign born, women and men, employed and unemployed, "part-time"

and "full-time." "Part-time" workers and "full-time" workers are in the same boat. They will go forward together in equality and solidarity, or they will be divided and conquered to safeguard Wal-Mart's super-profits.

International and historical perspective

Among comparable technologically-advanced Industrialized countries, USA is the most oppressive in a number of categories. USA is #1 among all countries, "advanced" and otherwise, in racist incarceration with 743 prisoners per 100,000 population. USA and Japan are the only "advanced" countries that still have the barbaric death penalty. USA is the only "advanced" country without a nationalized health care system.

USA is the only "advanced" country that has never had a mass labor party, a party for the working class. And finally, workers in the U.S. average the longest work-year. Average work-year by country: Germany -1,560 hours per year. France-1,656 hours. Canada -1,732 hours. Japan -1,888 hours. "USA #1"-1,960 hours per year.

Assuming 10 federal holidays and two weeks vacation, the standard year of being overworked in the U.S. is 40 hours per week over 48 weeks plus overtime. In historical perspective, Labor's demand for the now-standard 8-hour day and 40 hour workweek was first raised 126 years ago-- on May 1, 1886, which was a Saturday-long before automation, computers, robots, and extreme machines made it possible to do more and more work with less and less living labor. A radical reduction in working time is both technologically possible and socially necessary.

At one extreme, "full-time" workers are seriously overworked. At the other extreme, "part-time" workers do not make enough to live on, and four years after the Wall Street melt-down, unemployment remains at depression-era levels. What is to be done?

Cont. pg. 14

Jobs for All at Union Wages!

The revolutionary socialist idea is to fight for the shorter workweek and work-year with no loss in pay to create jobs for all. Divide the available work equally among all who are able to work, and with no cuts in standard of living.

Jobs for All at Union Wages! 30 hour



workweek! 40 hours pay! Longer paid vacations! Full citizenship rights for all immigrants! For union control of hiring with special union-run programs to recruit and train minorities and, women! If capitalism cannot satisfy these demands, then capitalism has got to go!

Union Labor needs revolutionary leadership

While "public opinion" is certainly important, the capitalists who claim Wal-Mart as their private property will not be defeated with a "public relations" campaign. Revive the class-struggle methods that built the industrial unions in the 1930's! For mass picketing, sit-down strikes, solidarity strikes, secondary "boycotts" ("hot cargo" struck goods), and so on.

The Teamsters Union has thus far been inexcusably absent from the campaign to Make Change at Wal-Mart. In what is left of unionized grocery stores in Northern California, Teamsters represent drivers and warehouse workers, while UFCW represents retail clerks and meat-cutters. With contracts expiring at different times, lack of solidarity between the two unions has crippled union struggles.

In retaliation for the 1997 UPS Teamsters strike, Democrat Bill Clinton's "Justice" Department busted the liberal Ron Carey on trumped up "corruption" charges and installed the conservative James P. Hoffa Jr.

who thinks the Teamsters Union is a branch of the Department of Homeland Security. Keep the capitalist government out of the Unions! Labor must clean its own house!

Teamsters Tops have padded their declining dues base by organizing Cops who are not workers and have no place in the labor movement. Cops, prison guards, and private security guards Out of AFL-CIO/Change to Win!

The Occupy movement raised no demands. Don't do that again. Union Labor must lead this struggle and make it abundantly clear to workers at Wal-Mart, and to the owners of Wal-Mart, what "union wages" and "union benefits" mean in terms of dollars and cents. If you are waiting for EFCA, the legalization of "card check" union recognition, then stop waiting. Five Senate Democrats killed EFCA in March-April 2009 when they broke ranks and stated publicly that they would not support EFCA - Nelson (NE), Spector (PA), Lincoln (AR), Carper (DE), and Feinstein (CA).

Democrats and Republicans are the partner parties of Wall Street and U.S. imperialism. Down with both capitalist parties! For a workers party that fights for a workers government, socialized property in finance and industry, and socialist planned economy! Workers of the World Unite!

American Crystal Sugar Lockout AFL-CIO Tops Leading Workers to Defeat...Yet Again

Locked out by American Crystal Sugar since August, 2012, the midwest Iowa, Minnesota and North Dakota workers of BCTGM (Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers' International Union) have hung on with determination for over a year. Recently they rejected the Crystal Sugar offer for the fourth time. From the Cooper Tire factory in Ohio to Roquette in Iowa to American Crystal Sugar, the bosses are employing lockouts more and more in order to force through concessions and break unions.

For a year the AFL-CIO tops did little to try to mobilize working class support for the embattled BCTGM workers. At a July rail-

ly, nearly a year into the lockout, AFL-CIO President Trumka pledged "action." Three months later in October, the AFL-CIO officially endorsed a consumer boycott campaign of American Crystal Sugar products, a strategy that is completely divorced from what is required to beat back the Crystal Sugar bosses' attacks.

These corporate campaigns and consumer boycotts, along with rallies designed to blow off steam, are what the union tops use to maintain their credibility while doing little to advance the interests of the working class. They are recipes for defeat. Labor struggles are not won or lost primarily in the court of public opinion but on the picket line. Just look at the defeated Hormel strike and Ray Roger's failed corporate campaign strategy¹ from the 1980's. In Wisconsin, the union leadership did what they usually do and diverted the sentiment for a general strike into the diversionary dead-end of the Recall, the Democratic Party and defeat.

In all likelihood, unless the BCTGM brothers and sisters chart a different course and unless a significant number of workers come to their defense, they will lose, especially with porous picket lines with scabs crossing.

While Trumka and the AFL-CIO leadership are trying to "organize" shoppers (the shopping "class"???) at the cash register and diverting workers from what is necessary, the CWG seeks to mobilize the entire working class allied with the Black, Brown and immigrant communities for an all out fight to defend workers struggles and against this system of capitalist exploitation. Labor struggle does not take place at the cash register, but on the picket line at the point of production through workers withholding their labor power, shutting down production and denying the bosses their profits. The unions were not built through moralistic appeals to shoppers and store managers/owners, but through solidarity, mass pickets, sit-down strikes, and defiance of the cops, courts and injunctions. Toothless consumer boycotts are not going to defeat the lockout of the American Crystal Sugar workers. What is needed are solid, mass picket lines staffed with workers self-defense guards to stop the scabs, defend against the racist, strike-breaking cops and shut down the plants tight. And the struggle needs to spread!

Cont. pg. 15

Mobilize all of labor to defend the American Crystal Sugar workers!

Occupy and shut down the plants through sit-down strikes and ring them with mass pickets and worker self-defense guards to include the oppressed communities!

Organize flying pickets to stop any trucks that try to move Crystal Sugar goods and to spread labor actions to the entire industry!

Instead of appealing to shoppers at grocery stores, the labor movement needs to agitate to organize the grocery workers, along with truckers, to stand in solidarity with the Crystal Sugar workers, to unionize the entire grocery industry and to refuse to handle (hot-cargo) Crystal Sugar products!

Organize the unorganized “wall-to-wall” across whole industries and communities!

Defy any injunctions and smash Taft-Hartley through militant class struggle!

The only illegal labor struggle is the one that loses!

For solidarity strikes and hot-cargoing to defend the locked out American Crystal Sugar workers!

Build a general strike movement that can defend all sections of the working class on strike or that are locked out!
Shut it down!

The labor movement was built through this type of good old-fashioned trade-union struggle that the servile, pro-capitalist, Democratic Party union leadership runs from. The union tops, these “labor lieutenants of capitalist ruling class,” have little to offer the workers movement except more concessions and defeat. Even after spending tens of millions of dollars supporting the capitalist Democratic Party they could not even get the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA) passed, a minor labor legalistic reform. They have no strategy or political program to advance or even defend the interests of the working class except the same old legalistic, Democratic Party class-collaborationist song-and-dance. How can they even argue that they are providing any type of leadership? The vast mass of the working class remains unorganized. Wisconsin witnessed a major defeat for labor; “right-to-work” is now in Michigan and our union brothers and sisters are facing defeat after defeat through lockouts or poorly led strikes, such as the Nicholls Aluminum Teamsters strike in Iowa.² It is one thing to lose after a well-organized, hard-fought battle. It is another to not even fight at all or to do it with half-measures or to divert workers into another impotent consumer boycott when all-out struggle is called for.

If we want to defend our unions and the working class as a whole, the rank-and-file need to start organizing within our unions independent committees/caucuses based on a political program of irreconcilable class struggle against the bosses. These committees need to also be linked to the unorganized and the Black, Brown and immigrant communities. We need to start building a leader-

ship that understands that this is a class war we are in and that will treat it as such, a new leadership from the ground up that is capable of replacing the careerists, the Democratic Party politicians and the pro-capitalist labor-fakers.

We need to stop relying on the Democrats in the vain hope that they will fight for our interests. The Democrats are the soft-cop (and

frequently hard-cop) enemy of the workers and all the oppressed, just as much as the reactionary right-wing Republicans. Labor needs to break from the capitalist Democratic/Republican parties and build a fighting workers/labor party that can do what the misleaders of the AFL-CIO have no intention of doing, which is educating, organizing and mobilizing workers against the onslaught by the capitalist ruling class. We need a workers government that will end these lockouts and attacks on workers once and for all, through nationalization without compensation of the major industries, including American Crystal, and the finance industry and run them under workers control. It is time for a rational society organized for human needs and not profit.



through nationalization without compensation of the major industries, including American Crystal, and the finance industry and run them under workers control. It is time for a rational society organized for human needs and not profit.

Defend our unions!

Organize rank-and-file class struggle caucuses/committees in our unions!

Build a fighting union leadership!

Break with the Democratic and Republican parties of the bosses!

It's time to build a fighting workers/labor party!

We need a workers militia and government to nationalize major industry and finance without compensation! For workers rule by a workers government!

For democratically elected workers councils to build a rational, centrally-planned economy based on human needs and not profit!

¹ Slaughterhouse Fight: A Look at the Hormel Strike

<http://www.uncanny.net/~wetzel/hormel.htm>

² http://qctimes.com/news/local/teamsters-end-strike-at-nicholls-aluminum/article_0c57db10-8255-11e1-bce0-001a4bef887a.html

More Lockouts as Companies Battle Unions

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/01/23/business/lockouts-once-rare-put-workers-on-the-defensive.html?_r=0&adxnml=1&pagewanted=all&adxnml=1355079711-xRxcz7Ux+fbGkQ0/AtydA

AFL-CIO head pledges support on Crystal Sugar lockout

<http://minnesota.publicradio.org/display/web/2012/07/25/labor/crystal-sugar-lockout/>

AFL-CIO boycotts American Crystal Sugar

http://www.upi.com/Business_News/2012/10/15/AFL-CIO-boycotts-American-Crystal-Sugar/UPI-70731350335441/

Locked-out Crystal Sugar Workers reject contract for fourth time

http://www.workdayminnesota.org/index.php?news_6_5388

Boycott

<http://www.boycottacs.com/>

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OAKLAND PORT WORKER ASSEMBLY: WHICH WAY FORWARD FOR LABOR

Coming together in September 2012 a core group of Port of Oakland union workers including Laborers, Sailors of the Pacific (SUP), ILWU, SEIU 1021 as well as unorganized Truckers and their supporters in the Teamsters union came together with Occupy Oakland Labor Solidarity members to organize the Oakland Port Workers Assembly (PWA). The assembly has been meeting regularly and organizing support for union actions at the Port. Supporting the organizing efforts of the unorganized truckers and warehouse workers, and supporting the ILWU and SEIU in their contract fights are on the agenda of this assembly. The assembly published "Turning the Tide: Port Workers Newsletter."

The newsletter contains a piece by Clarence Thomas, retired President of ILWU Local 10, arguably the most powerful black trade unionist in the country, highlighting the Pacific Northwest Grain Handlers and the big monopoly grain handlers attack on the ILWU and the need for a strong united solidarity effort to defeat the union busting of the big grain Conglomerates. A brother from the SUP educates the readers about labor history, the IWW, the 1934 General Maritime Strike, and the links of the Obama administration thru Larry Summers, formerly of Goldman Sachs, to the Stevedore Services of America which has been channeling record-breaking profits to the financiers while they squeeze the workers at the ports.

The tone for the newsletter was set during an Assembly. Comrades of the Communist Workers Group (CWG) and Humanist Workers (HWRs) made recommendations that the newsletter address the need for class struggle caucuses in the unions, for organizing wall to wall from the ports through the warehouses to the truckers to the end of the supply chain (Wal-Mart etc.) and the argument was made for labor's political independence and for defense of the oppressed communities. These comrades were then roundly admonished by leaders of Advance the Struggle (ATS,) that only "real port workers," should write for the newsletter, and that we (the assembly,) were only here to support the independent initiative of the "real Port Workers."

Clarence Thomas and Jack Heyman both interjected that while they had been members of class struggle caucuses in their union, this newsletter was not the place to explain this strategic tool to the port workers. The real port workers who would write the newsletter could have their say and the assembly would layout, assemble and distribute. Never mind or inform the readers of the newsletter that of the 30 participants in the assembly only a handful are cur-

rently employed at the port while three of the four ILWU brothers who showed up are retired and despite speaking with the authority of their historic roles and influence in the union, brought no currently working Longshoreman to the assembly.

This is the practice of the anti-Leninist left. In the name of "assisting the workers" these ne'er-do-well leftists do everything they can to hide from the workers the historic lessons of the class. Even though economist limitations were not strictly or expressly imposed upon the contributors, three of the newsletter's contributors who are known and self-identified as "revolutionary socialists" chose to limit the strategic, political and organizational content of their comments to syndicalism and economism. Talk about hiding your light under a bushel!

None of the self-identified "Trotskyists" who made contributions to the newsletter felt any need for the Transitional method to de-

velop a winning strategy for labor. Egged on by the fake Bordigistas of the ATS, by renegade fake socialists of multiple stripes and in accord with the "anti-leadership" guidance from the left moving youth of Occupy,* the HWRs fell deeper into the minimum/maximum trap and not for the first time! Losing to the economists in the assembly, yet still having a "real port worker" as a member,

the HWRs had the opportunity to advance a class struggle methodology in the newsletter but they balked.

The HWRs contribution by an anonymous warehouse worker is particularly abstract and vacant of program. "While the individual attitudes of the workers may vary, we must encourage them to collectively participate in political strikes or other actions by creating a higher level of solidarity and identification with other port workers." How do they jump to political strikes from where they start (see the entire article on page 3 of the newsletter.) They build no bridge. They do not explain the need to organize wall to wall, to link to the unemployed, to the precariat and to the oppressed communities. They make no mention of the need for working class political independence, for the need to dethrone the union bureaucracy and to rise up a class struggle leadership that will guide the class in battle against Taft-Hartley, or to build a general strike movement to fight for a workers government of workers representatives. This has become the HWRs method; they apply the transitional method in the press but not in the class struggle. This is the method of a book club, not a class struggle league!

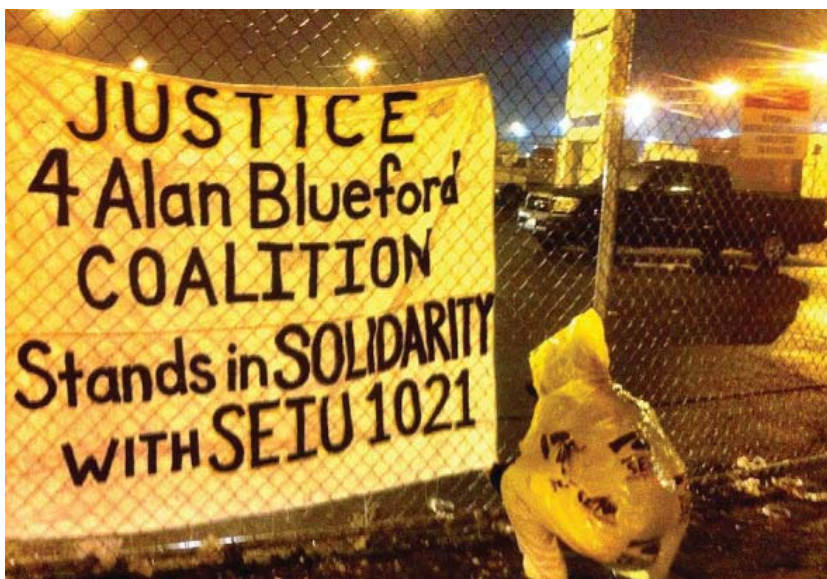


Northbay Uprising .blogspot.com PWA joins 1021 Picket Line

Cont from pg 16

While the Port Workers Assembly mobilized support for the SEIU 1021 pickets at the airport and the ports, this is as far as their vision went, rather than fighting for a bay area class wide solidarity campaign including mass picket, flying squads and self defense pickets they did the job of an uncritical solidarity auxiliary obsequious to the bureaucracy. We still have hope that Oolaborsolidarity, the PWA and Occupy can learn this lesson. On the discussion pages of the PWA regarding how to support the SEIU the CWG submitted this proposal, which leaders of the ATS cynically scoffed at, suggesting the CWG make it into a leaflet and distribute it to the Port Workers. So we did.

Two weeks later the SEIU 1021 has declared victory after a one day strike. The Democrats brought them back to the negotiating table, the 47 concessions demanded of the union were taken off the table, compensation for the increased pension share of the workers was included, yet this make up wage allotment is taxable and so does not fully compensate for the pension take away. A 5%-over-four-years-increase does not keep up with inflation, nor



that the workers at the port have not responded to their call and attended the PWA.

*By anti-leadership we would have to say that the youth of occupy are insisting that they have no leadership of their own because, as we have seen for several months beginning with May Day and continuing through the Con Ed and the Oakland Port Workers Struggle, they are no critics of the leadership of the trade union bureaucracy. Indeed it seems they have sought and receive recognition as an uncritical force by the bureaucracy. Hence, Occupy declares that SEIU 1021 has won a great victory with their help.

<http://occupyoakland.org/2012/12/seiu-local-1021-shut-down-port-of-oakland-now-wins-big-contract-victory/>

How can the Oakland Port Workers Assembly Support the SEIU 1021 strike in winning a non-concessionary contract?

We have seen many one day strikes (the California Nurses Association makes a regular practice of using them as do the European trade unions which often hold one day General Strikes) and they do not result in winning contracts. In fact, they are used by the union leaderships who tie the workers to the capitalist bosses' political party, as a pressure release valve when leadership feels heat from the rank and file. However, in this period of capitalist crisis non-concessionary contracts will not be won by one-day strikes or even a series of them.

Our support for the strike action at the port by SEIU 1021 this week must be unwavering and show that the Assembly is mobilizing boots on the ground and bringing the information about the Port to our co-workers and communities. But we would be remiss

if we were to say nothing about the failed strategy of one-day and limited duration strikes, about who promotes them, the whys and how's and that they disarm the working class.

Our assembly has a choice to make. Will we limit ourselves to doing the work the labor council should be doing, substituting ourselves for the work the accumulated resources of labor (under control of the leaderships) should be put to? Of course we must!

But this is not enough.

WHERE IS THE LEADERSHIP?

With our limited resources we will make links with the community, with occupy, with the unemployed, with the vanguard

elements of organized and unorganized labor who will bring support to the strike (hopefully with a spill-over effect to other labor solidarity efforts.) However, our work will be done without the resources (funded by our co-workers' dues dollars) confined by and in the hands of the local unions and indirectly dispensable by the leadership of the Alameda Labor Council (ALC.)



Cont .pg.18

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The ALC should be the organizing center mobilizing bay area labor to build broad class solidarity to win strikes! The council, were it so inclined, could take the necessary actions to mobilize hundreds and thousands of rank and file workers. The same workers the union leaderships called for the get-out-the-vote campaign are today sitting at home atomized, trying to figure out how their family will weather the crisis. They must be looking at their fiscal situation, recall the port shut downs and wonder when its time to do it again!

But the rank and file is unprepared by decades of the "team-concept" and the leadership's class-collaboration for winning. The memberships have been kept from their class struggle history, from how to develop a winning program and what the methods are of organizing and winning strikes.

Rank and file workers wait (like undated wallflowers) for the phone call from their elected leadership; calls for effective action, calls which will never come from these fakery! Workers are asking themselves what is the union doing and see nothing but ineffectual political campaigns and more austerity and accepting concessionary contracts enforced by over-paid fat-cat bureaucrats playing footsie with management.

IMPEDIMENTS TO VICTORY

Our Assembly should use this opportunity to explain the limits of the one-day strike tactic, to advocate a winning strategy of an indefinite strike, and bring the demand to the labor council to mobilize the bay area rank and file for actions that can force big capital to its knees!

All our current union leaderships justify their inability to mount class wide battles by accepting the limits of Taft-Hartley as etched in stone! But we know that law only reflects the relative weakness of the working class at the time of it's implementation and to win labor must free it's straight-jacketed torso by defeating Taft-Hartley. But Taft-Hartley will not be defeated at the ballot, by lobbying or by petition-it will only be defeated in class struggle, in strikes that unite the class in its defiance! Our union leaders hide behind this law; it keeps dues dollars flowing to the labor tops as long as they assure class struggle does not erupt under their watch.

But if we learn anything from the Marikana miners, who just won a 22% pay raise from Lonmin, whose struggle has ignited a class wide uprising across Southern Africa, it is that the enforcer unions, those with one hand in our pockets and two feet in the camp of the capitalist state, can be swept away when workers self-organize.

The way to defeat Taft-Hartley is united labor action initiated by the rank and file, bringing the organizational strength of the class into united action, in strike after strike, in city after city until it collapses under the weight of united mass strike action. We know this will not be initiated by the entrenched leaders. We know they will lead each struggle into defeat, which is why class struggle caucuses must be built to challenge for leadership, to bring class struggle strategy to our co-workers.

Without saying what is needed, the Assembly offers no viable alternative to the defeats currently being organized at the hands of the class-collaborators those all-knowing graduates of Chico State or the UCB labor studies programs! They tell us, "We know all about 1919, 1934, 1946, etc., (we came to and even sponsored Labor Fest,) but we have a better plan! Rather than acting like the 'ultra-lefts' of the Assembly or Occupy who advocate turning the one-sided class war into one where we fight back, we say, 'trust our friends' in Sacramento! We (with your good efforts) just won a historic victory, a Democratic super-majority!" in the State Assembly.

What Role for the Port Workers Solidarity Assembly

Some in our assembly have expressed the view that, "our work is to support the actions and views of the real port workers." "Ours," we are admonished, "is only a support role--the 'real-workers' will guide the assembly which is only here to support independent-workers initiative. This stated role actually covers for a definitive and self-limiting type of leadership provided the assembly by advocates of the "hands-off" approach (which actually means don't talk about a winning program, don't let the workers know that political independence is essential to win economic battles, don't tell the workers that the bureaucracy is preparing our defeat, and don't offer an alternative) that is, to walk alongside the workers as they march into a defeat without saying what we know (having been around the block a few times) what lies around the corner.

The "hands-off, and no-critique" method leaves the assembly with the task of being silent partners in labor struggles, giving left cover and mobilizing labor and community support for the limited actions led by a bureaucracy which has no winning strategy for port workers or any struggle faced by our class.

A class struggle leadership in the labor council and in SEIU 1021 would have a strategy of expanding the strike action into a powerful organizing drive linking the organized workers at the port to the unorganized warehouse workers and truckers' organizing efforts as well as defending the airport restaurant workers fired for their organizing with UNITE/HERE..

Class struggle leaderships of our unions would make every contract struggle a class-wide fight. Class struggle leaderships would expand each port workers contract fight to demand wall to wall organization! The current leaders won't say it. The Assembly must say, "We fight for all, products at every step of the supply chain to be made, moved, and sold by union labor!" Same Fight same contract both sides of the border!

A class struggle leadership would make every fight for a union contract into a fight to mobilize and organize across the working class. With such a leadership the port workers would link directly to the Wal-Mart workers in their organizing drives building their organizing drive into a re-awakening of labor in an effort not seen since the founding of the CIO.

But we have to be honest when talking to the workers. The current leaderships of the SEIU 1021 and the entire labor council are

Cont from pg 18 PWA

not up to the task that objective conditions have laid at their feet. We observe the ALC's supporting the bosses' Democratic Mayor Quan's non-union appointees to the Port Commission. Such commissioners will have no accountability to the dues paying membership. Instead we should call for complete political independence in the form of a fighting workers/labor party through which labor fights to remove the bosses appointees. Under the current leadership labor will limp along from one defeat to the next.

Even the limited victory of the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU), based on unprecedented community support reminiscent of the 1930's, should have gone further in building upon this outpouring of community solidarity by standing firm until the closure of 100 schools is taken off the table. But even the CTU reformers in the CORE caucus (supported by the International Socialist Organization and Solidarity) had an idealist view of class struggle. So when the school closures are imposed the CTU will be locked into contract and will shrug its shoulders in the face of their community and working class supporters who call for strike action to save our schools! We must warn workers against both the current class-collaborators and those who under the guise of reform merely loosen the choker around labor's neck.

If the assembly limits its work, substituting itself for the organizational and outreach work the unions should be doing, without taking the lessons of class struggle unionism, class struggle caucuses, how to defeat the bosses 'legal' limits, how we must use tools-down methods for building local, national and internationalist solidarity, how labor can only build the community support it needs when it takes labor actions to defend the black, brown and oppressed communities from state repression, we end up assisting in disarming the working class by holding back the tools the class needs to turn the tide from defensive to offensive.

If we do not say to the workers that only through your own self organization and your own independent political party can our class chart a course to defeat capital in contract fights, to defeat the bosses in their imposition of the austerity and replace the rule of the 0.01% with a government of our own shop-floor and district workers representatives, we offer little more than have the left and fake-socialist bureaucrats who for decades coddle the entrenched and ossified leaderships for allowing them to have a seat under the table of their ongoing feast (being held at our expense) with management.

Which way will the assembly go?

Communist Workers Group CWGclasswar@gmail.com

Gaza: Support the Palestinian Resistance!

Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 15.11.2012, www.thecommunists.net

1. The Israeli state has again launched on 14th November a murderous wave of airstrikes and rocket attacks against the Palestinian people in Gaza. In the first 24 hours they have already killed at least 15 Palestinians – including several children and a pregnant woman – and injured more than 150. These numbers are rising every hour. Among the dead is also Ahmed al-Jabari, head of Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades (Hamas' military wing).

2. This is just the latest round of killing and oppression against the Palestinian people. Remember the war which Israel launched against the Gaza in December 2008 and January 2009 when it slaughtered 1,400 people! In fact the whole history of Zionism and of Israel since its foundation in 1948 is marked by oppression and expulsion of the Palestinian people. Israel is a capitalist Apartheid state which systematically oppresses the Palestinians.

3. While the Israeli state is the killer, it couldn't do this dirty job without the decades-long support from Western imperialism. It could not even exist without the massive military and financial aid, which it receives every year from the Western Great Powers (e.g. Israel is the No. 1 among the recipients of U.S. foreign aid). Israel gets this support because it is a colonial settler-state which acts as a watchdog of the US and European imperialist interests in the Middle East.

4. The international workers movement and all progressive organizations must rally to the support of the Palestinian people who heroically defend themselves against the Israeli killing machine. We need solidarity actions all over the world – demonstrations, strikes, direct actions against Israeli and US symbols, boycott actions etc. The RCIT calls for:

* Defend Gaza! Victory to the Palestinian resistance! Defeat the Israeli aggression! * Egypt must immediately open the border to Gaza! It must terminate all relations with Israel, including its ongoing gas deliveries to Israel.

* For unconditional material and military support for the Palestinian people and the armed resistance to fight the Israeli army! * Transport workers: Stop all deliveries to Israel! Trade unions and all progressive organizations must support the ongoing global boycott campaign against Israel! Shut down the Israeli embassies all over the world! The racist trade union in Israel "Histadrut" should be expelled from the "International Confederation of Free Trade Unions". For international trade union support for the Palestinian unions and for anti-Zionist workers organizations inside Israel! Progressive academic organizations should break off contact with Zionist institutions

Cont pg 21



An Injury to One is an Injury to All!
For international working class defense of
all class war prisoners
and victims of capitalist state repression!

The CWG stands for the non-sectarian working class defense of class war prisoners and all the oppressed based upon the old Wobly principle that “An Injury to One is an Injury to All!”. We place no faith in the capitalist courts, government agencies or labor boards to achieve justice. We call for the united International Working Class in alliance with the oppressed to come to the defense of all victims of capitalist state repression through class struggle methods. This means not only union resolutions but mass labor mobilizations and political strikes.

Drop all charges! Free Bradley Manning!

Bradley Manning, the young US Army Intelligence Analyst charged with allegedly leaking to Julian Assange of WikiLeaks damning material on the bloody US imperialist wars in the Middle East, including a video of the US military murdering Iraqi civilians, along with two Reuters journalists, awaits a March trial. Manning and WikiLeaks were credited as catalysts for the Arab Spring that began in December 2010, when waves of protesters rose up against rulers across the Middle East and North Africa after the leaked cables exposed government corruption.

The Obama administration, no less than the Republican Bush administration, will brook no opposition to their bloody imperialist adventures overseas. “Manning has been in the dark for more than 900 days — with most of that time spent in solitary confinement. It is the longest pre-trial detention of a U.S. military soldier since the Vietnam War,” wrote Seamus McKiernan of the Huffington Post. The CWG calls for all leftists, labor and community activists

anyone interested in defending free speech and free press to come to the defense of Bradley Manning.

<http://www.bradleymanning.org/>

UMass Administration targets the International Socialist
Organization
Hands off the ISO!

The University of Massachusetts-Boston (UMB) is targeting the campus organization of the International Socialist Organization (ISO) by seizing their student funding and threatening to remove their status as a campus organization. This is for allegedly putting up posters in “non-designated” locations. This witch-hunt against the ostensibly socialist ISO is an attempt to stifle leftist political speech and press on campus and is an attack on all.

The CWG has vast political differences with the ISO that do not preclude our defense of their democratic rights. The ISO is a reformist, social-democratic (i.e. liberal) political organization that recently sold out the Chicago Teacher’s strike and whose international comrades supported the reactionary Muslim Brotherhood in the Egyptian elections. For their part, the ISO is willing to suck up to the powers that be at UMass by working “with, not against, the student government and the administration to change the current policies regulating posting and student clubs.” What are they going to do? Aid the UMass administration in defining free speech zones?

The CWG demands hands off the ISO! All leftists, faculty, students, student organizations and campus unions have a real interest in defending the ISO. You may be next!

<http://umass-socialism.blogspot.com/>

Cont from pg 19

in Israel. At the same time they should expand cooperation with Palestinian and Jewish anti-Zionist forces.

* Unite the Arab Revolution with a renewed Intifada in Palestine! For committees and councils of action in enterprises and towns to organize such an Intifada from below. * Israeli worker, Activists of the "tent city" movement: Raise your voice and demonstrate in protest against the aggression of "your" government! Israeli soldiers: Do everything possible to sabotage these war crimes!

* Support the Syrian Revolution against the reactionary Assad dictatorship! * Down with the sanctions against Iran! Defend Iran against imperialist and Israeli war-mongering!

5.The RCIT supports the national liberation struggle of the Palestinian people. That is why in the struggle between the Palestinians and the Israeli state we are on the side of the former - despite our absolute rejection of the bourgeois and petty-bourgeois forces at the forefront of these struggles (like Hamas). All Palestinians must have the right to return to their homeland. Likewise, the land grab must be reversed and the Palestinians must get their land returned. The return of the displaced people of course means that the Palestinians will constitute the majority of the population.

6.We therefore reject the existence of a Jewish state in Palestine because it can only exist as long as the expulsion of the Palestinians continues to exist. We reject a "two-state solution". This would deny the Palestinians the right of return. Likewise, a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza would be reduced to a Bantustan, a dependent de-facto colony of the much richer and more powerful Israel. The State of Israel must be destroyed and be replaced by a secular, Arab-Jewish workers' republic in the whole of Palestine. In such a state, the Palestinians and the Jews, who accept the elimination of the privileges of the apartheid state of Israel, can live together equally and peacefully. We combine this perspective with the struggle for a socialist federation of the people in the Middle East.

7.The RCIT condemns all those reformist forces (like most left-wing social democrats and ex-Stalinist parties) which criti-

cize equally Israel and "terrorist organizations" like Hamas, which defend the right of existence for Israel (including centrists like the CWI) or which refuse to support the Palestinian resistance because it is led by petty-bourgeois Islamist forces like Hamas (including many other centrist groups based in the Western world like the IMT or the British AWL). Of course, revolutionary socialists don't share an inch of the political goals of the petty-bourgeois leaderships of Hamas. However only a fool or a servant of imperialism can deny that this is a war between an oppressor state (Israel) and an oppressed people – the Palestinians! The Palestinians fight for their right to live and exist! Any left-wing organization which stands aside in this war, which refuses to support the struggle of the Palestinian resistance under its existing leadership against the Israeli aggression, under the pretext of secular democracy or socialism, betrays exactly such democratic and socialist principles!

8.While we support the heroic struggle of the Palestinian fighters of Hamas, Islamic Jihad and other resistance organizations, we warn against any illusion in the petty-bourgeois leaderships of these organizations. The working class in Palestine and internationally need their independent fighting party for socialism. Forward in building a revolutionary workers party as part of a Fifth International based on a revolutionary program! Long live international solidarity!

This statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT) 15/11/12 was endorsed, distributed and posted on line by the Liaison Committee of Communists on 11/15/12 by the CWG(AO/NZ), CWG(USA), RWG(NZ) with one reservation the LCC supports the formation of a new workers International based on the programmatic conquests of the 1938 Transitional Program but does not endorse the call for a Fifth International.

DROP THE SEDITION CHARGES AGAINST COMRADE JOHANNES WIENER

A young comrade of the RKOB of Austria has been charged with 'sedition' for making a speech in support of Palestinian liberation and against the "apartheid" state of Israel at a recent demonstration in Vienna against the Israeli bombing of Gaza. We reprint the RKOB statement.

The Liaison Committee of Communists

condemns the actions of the Austrian imperialist bourgeois state in suppressing the democratic right of freedom of speech!

We condemn the actions of pro-Israel, pro-Zionist political groups in actively campaigning for the suppression of freedom of speech.

The Liaison Committee of Communists declare our solidarity with the RKOB in a united front on the demand: "Palestine shall be free, from the River to the Sea!"

LIAISON COMMITTEE OF COMMUNISTS
Communist Workers' Group (USA)
Revolutionary Workers' Group (Zimbabwe)
Communist Workers' Group (Aotearoa/New Zealand)

Austria: Pro-Israeli War-Mongers try to throw 20-year old Palestine Solidarity Activist into Prison

Statement of the RKOB, Austrian section of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency, 13.12.2012

RKOB spokesperson Johannes Wiener is accused of sedition" because of a Pro-Palestine speech during the Gaza War. 20-year old Palestine Solidarity Activist and RKOB spokesperson Johannes Wiener has been accused of „sedition" and must appear soon at the "Federal Bureau for the Protection of the Constitution and Counter-Terrorism" in Vienna (this is the long name for the Secret Police in Austria). His crime: He held a speech in solidarity with the Palestine Resistance at a mass rally on 16.11.2012 during the recent Gaza War. As a result comrade Wiener faces the threat of up to two years in prison. His militant speech has caused some public attention and was already viewed 6.500 times since then. It has been published as a video both on the RKOB website as well as of the bourgeois daily paper HEUTE.

The accusation of „sedition" is nothing but an attempt to criminalize a long-standing socialist and anti-imperialist position: to stand in solidarity with the Palestinian resistance and to characterize Israel as an Apartheid state. Those, who dare to speak out the truth, should be sentenced, fined or even put in prison. Such an attempt to criminalize even the public expression of this position is unique in Austria.

Cont. pg. 22

The file has been charged most likely by pro-Israeli war monger circles. Those forces have already in the past weeks agitated massively against the RKOB and Johannes Wiener because of his speech. They organized a rally in Vienna on 21.11. called "Solidarity with Israel – Free Gaza from Hamas!". Amongst the organizers and speakers at this rally were former leftist (extreme Zionist so-called "Anti-Germans") who lecture at the university, fundamentalist sects like the "Christens for Israel", various religious-Zionist sects, the Israeli ambassador, as well as the youth organization of the Green Party and the university student group of the Communist Party (which is part of the European Left Party).

As a side note we shall mention that the racist right wing party FPÖ also expressed their solidarity with Israel during the recent Gaza war. And these right forces also harassed the RKOB last year and filed a charge against us (albeit without success).

These pro-Israeli war mongers hate us since years because of our solidarity activities for the Palestine resistance and against the imperialist wars in the Middle East. They even call us "Anti-Semitic"! In 2006 they took our comrade Michael Pröbsting – today the International Secretary of the RCIT – to the court and got him sentenced. Now they try the same with our 20-year old comrade Johannes Wiener.

The RKOB and Johannes Wiener have become now again the target of the pro-Israeli war mongers, because we played an active and leading role in the solidarity activities during the recent Gaza War.

Together with many pro-Palestinian activists we have been repeatedly on the street campaigning. We have expressed openly in leaflets, meetings and speeches what we are standing for:

* Defend Gaza! Solidarity with the Palestinian resistance! Defeat the Israeli aggression!

* No to the Apartheid state Israel! For a socialist state in the whole of Palestine in which Arabs and Jews can live together as equals and peacefully!

Now the Zionist forces want to criminalize this position. They want to hurt us politically and financially. They want to discourage others to join the socialist struggle for the liberation of Palestine! We must stop them! Whether you fully share our point of view or not – it is now important to join forces against the criminalization of anti-Zionist and anti-imperialist position!

We demand: Drop immediately the charges against the pro-Palestine activist Johannes Wiener!

DEFEAT ARGENTINIAN STATE REPRESSION OF SOCIALISTS DEFEND LOI-CI MILITANT PAULA MADRANO

Some of the leading members of the Trotskyist LOI-DO of Argentina have been subjected to house searches and confiscation of documents and cell phones by legal authorities on false charges of fraud. This is a capitalist state persecution of the "Movement for Workers' Democracy" and an attack on the workers' movement internationally.

The Liaison Committee of Communists strongly supports the call for a campaign to fight the persecution of the socialist fighters of LOI-DO, to drop all charges and end the persecution of militants

by the state.

We reproduce part of the Press Release of the Movement for Workers Democracy below (any translation errors are ours).

Communist Workers Group (USA)
Communist Workers Group (A/NZ)
Revolutionary Workers Group (Zimbabwe)

Press Release of the Movement for Workers Democracy

October 1st, 2012

STOP THE ATTACKS AND PERSECUTION OF THE SOCIALIST FIGHTERS!

Against the Trotskyists, no! Against us, no! We are with Aleppo and the workers and exploited who in Syria fight against the genocide to Al Assad on behalf of imperialism!

Out with the judges of Mossad like the fascist Melazo and the bosses justice that attack the Socialist workers and fighters!

On Wednesday, (9/26/12) in simultaneous raids, in several houses of Argentinian socialist revolutionary leaders some with more than 40 years in the national political arena, were raided. The office of the labor lawyer Viviana Noguerol was raided also. She is member of the Promotion Board of "Movimiento por la Democracia Obrera" (Movement for Workers Democracy) in Argentina.

Days before, Paula Medrano was phoned by the UFI 8 of the city La Plata in charge of María Victoria Huergo, prosecuting attorney of complex crimes in the [...] public prosecutor office where César Melazo, the Magistrate of "guarantees" works.

Paula Medrano is a "daughter of the disappeared" of La Plata city. She had called the tribunal and public prosecutor's office asking if the corpse of her mother had appeared in the year and a half since the corpse of her father "appeared". The phone call in reply was to inform her that the prosecutor's office had found cause to charge her with "fraud".

As already happened with leaders of Quebracho 5-6 years ago, this fascist judge Melazo now accuses worker and popular fighters of "fraud" and "theft" as a means of political persecution. We face a repetition of this procedure, this time against socialist leaders, labour lawyers, intellectuals, and sons and daughters of disappeared. [...]

The judge Melazo, last April 2, said in the press that "here is a punch of the Quebrachitos - that hid their faces - till we break their faces". Thus, this magistrate called for an attack like the murderous Bonaerense Police made when they "went to punch the picketers in Puente Pueyrredon" that killed Kostequi and Santillán in 2002. Some of the killers were caught not because a judge was investigating the Bonaerense police but because they were filmed by journalists at the moment when they killed the comrades in Avellaneda Station.

We are facing a provocation. The raids against socialists including detention of people at their home address. People that have nothing to do with the search warrant and were detained in public, in the street like ordinary thieves. Dozens of policemen and

Cont pg 23

Cont. from pg. 22 Defend LOI-CI activists

prosecuting attorneys trashed the houses and lawyer's offices seizing papers, mobile phones and computers. They sought telephone numbers, personal notebooks, names, ransacked wardrobes, turned mattresses over. They carefully checked the books on Marxism and socialism found in the houses one by one.

The witnesses that supposedly "were passing by on the street" were arrested without the knowledge of anybody. [...] the police and experts opened their computers and mobile phones without the physical presence of the proprietors of the housing and without their permission [...]

[...] Nobody should be surprised by this attack, when the Macri, Chief of Government of the Ciudad de Buenos Aires is accused of listening telephone conversations of citizens demanding their rights. Nothing can be odd when all the political originators of the assassinations on December 20, 2001 are free, as well as of the assassination of Kostequi and Santillán and the thousands cases of "easy trigger" against the Argentinean youth, among others.

[...] Of course, we will show, neither before judges of the dictatorship nor their prosecuting attorneys living in La Recoleta, but before the eyes of the working class and workers of Argentina and the world that the true criminal gangs are those who steal the rivers, minerals, water, oil, the Central Bank, 50.000 millions of dollars of the savers while all the bankers remain free.

[...] we will denounce not before judges who belonged to the CNU, the fascists of the Triple A who killed students in Mar del Plata, who in partnership with Mossad persecute the fighters for the Palestinian cause. While the Triple A has kidnapped some of us it has not intimidated us. Neither did the military dictatorship intimidate us, let alone the CIA, Mossad and CNU's judges against which we fight.

[...] Facing the provocation, against the courts of the oligarchy, we call for a public tribunal of the workers organizations and those who stand for true democracy to bring to trial the judges of the dictatorship, their collaborators, the prosecuting attorneys and the oligarchy and expropriators of the people. We will investigate them. We will judge them. And before the eyes of the people we will show they are impostors.

[...] The internationalist socialists of world working class organizations will denounce the persecution of our comrades of Argentina because they dared to lead the Campaign of international solidarity with the workers and people massacred by genocides in Libya, Syria and Palestine. We accuse the political chiefs of these judges and the State as responsible. They are the agents of the oligarchy and imperialism that pillages the nation.

We know that these threats and arrogance and this attack against the democratic freedoms are a response to a relentless fight in defense of the interests of the workers all around the world and in particular of the Argentinian workers.

[...] The UFI 8 says it has an expert team with the best technology to solve "complex crimes". They claim to have the "best men" and

the "best technology"...so, why don't they find the kidnappers of Julio López if they are able to solve so many "complex crimes"? If they are of such "high quality" and "efficiency" where is Julio López? [...] where is the young Luciano Arruga and Daniel Solano-delegate of the agriculture workers? Until they find them this is living proof that they only catch "chicken thieves" and allow the kidnappers, the murderous military-men, the corrupted politicians, and the transnational companies, plunderers of the nation, to go free.

We know that we will get the support of the organizations that fight for democratic freedoms; the socialist and worker organizations of the world that support the fighters in Syria and Libya; those that in Wall Street and in Europe fight against the capitalists' attacks. Those who fight for the freedom of the prisoners of Guantanamo, Chile, Colombia, Palestine will be side by side with us.

[...] This is one more of so many political fights that our socialist movement has made in the Argentinean, Latin American, and world working class. In the particular case of the "Movimiento por la Democracia Obrera" of Argentina which has begun its campaign to stand in the next electoral campaign to present, this time with electoral legal status, its positions in public. This provocation is aimed at preventing a socialist, independent, and intransigent voice being heard denouncing the interests of the exploiters and their political representatives in Argentina. They will not achieve it. We know of the great national and international solidarity that we will get through this appeal.

[...] The "Movimiento por la Democracia Obrera" is member of an international movement in support of the Syrian masses to stop the genocide of Al Assad on behalf of all the imperialist powers of the world. We take up again the socialist tradition of the Argentinian workers that in the '30s sent volunteers, money and medicine to the battlefield in Spain against Francoism. We know that the "franquist" Argentineans of today are the ones attacking us and they want to stop us. They will not achieve it.

Paula Medrano
Viviana Noguero
Juan Pico
W.M.

An Injury to One is an Injury to All! Defend Anarchist Grand Jury Resisters!

Three anarchists were jailed in SeaTac Federal Detention Center this Fall for refusing to help the Feds and testify to a Grand Jury in relation to actions at Occupy May Day protests in Seattle. This is simply a tactic by the capitalist state to coerce testimony from leftists against other activists in order to quell social discontent. "The arbitrary issuing of subpoenas to activists and pressuring them to divulge information about others in secret proceedings extends to arresting them when they decide to resist," National Lawyers Guild's Executive Director Boghosian stated, commenting that the grand jury subpoena process has a "star chamber

What we Fight For

We fight to overthrow Capitalism

Historically, capitalism expanded world-wide to free much of humanity from the bonds of feudal or tribal society, and developed the economy, society and culture to a new higher level. But it could only do this by exploiting the labour of the productive classes to make its profits. To survive, capitalism became increasingly destructive of "nature" and humanity. In the early 20th century it entered the epoch of imperialism in which successive crises unleashed wars, revolutions and counter-revolutions. Today we fight to end capitalism's wars, famine, oppression and injustice, by mobilising workers to overthrow their own ruling classes and bring to an end the rotten, exploitative and oppressive society that has exceeded its use-by date.

We fight for Socialism.

By the 20th century, capitalism had created the pre-conditions for socialism – a world-wide working class and modern industry capable of meeting all our basic needs. The potential to eliminate poverty, starvation, disease and war has long existed. The October Revolution proved this to be true, bringing peace, bread and land to millions. But it became the victim of the combined assault of imperialism and Stalinism. After 1924 the USSR, along with its deformed offspring in Europe, degenerated back towards capitalism. In the absence of a workers political revolution, capitalism was restored between 1990 and 1992. Vietnam and China then followed. In the 21st century only Cuba and North Korea survive as degenerate workers states. We unconditionally defend these states against capitalism and fight for political revolution to overthrow the bureaucracy as part of world socialist revolution.

We fight to defend Marxism

While the economic conditions for socialism exist today, standing between the working class and socialism are political, social and cultural barriers. They are the capitalist state and bourgeois ideology and its agents. These agents claim that Marxism is dead and capitalism need not be exploitative. We say that Marxism is a living science that explains both capitalism's continued exploitation and its attempts to hide class exploitation behind the appearance of individual "freedom" and "equality". It reveals how and why the reformist, Stalinist and centrist misleaders of the working class tie workers to bourgeois ideas of nationalism, racism, sexism and equality. Such false beliefs will be exploded when the struggle against the inequality, injustice, anarchy and barbarism of capitalism in crisis, led by a revolutionary Marxist party, produces a revolutionary class-consciousness.

We fight for a Revolutionary Party

The bourgeois and its agents condemn the Marxist party as

totalitarian. We say that without a democratic and a centrally organised party there can be no revolution. We base our beliefs on the revolutionary tradition of Bolshevism and Trotskyism. Such a party, armed with a transitional program, forms a bridge that joins the daily fight to defend all the past and present gains won from capitalism to the victorious socialist revolution. Defensive struggles for bourgeois rights and freedoms, for decent wages and conditions, will link up the struggles of workers of all nationalities, genders, ethnicities and sexual orientations, bringing about movements for workers control, political strikes and the arming of the working class, as necessary steps to workers' power and the smashing of the bourgeois state. Along the way, workers will learn that each new step is one of many in a long march to revolutionize every barrier put in the path to their victorious revolution.



We fight for Communism.

Communism stands for the creation of a classless, stateless society beyond socialism that is capable of meeting all human needs. Against the ruling class lies that capitalism can be made "fair" for all, that nature can be "conserved", that socialism and communism are "dead", we raise the red flag of communism to keep alive the revolutionary tradition of the Communist Manifesto of 1848, the Bolshevik-led October Revolution, the Third Communist International until 1924, and the revolutionary Fourth International up to its collapse into centrism, with the closing of the International center. We fight to build a new Communist International, as a world party of socialism capable of leading workers to a victorious struggle for socialism.

Join us: where overthrowing capitalism is all in a days work !!
cwgclasswar@gmail.com www.cwgusa.wordpress.com



Cont from pg 23

quality." Grand jury resisters can expect to be held for up to 18 months, the statutory term for a federal grand jury. This amounts to a sentence without a trial. This is all part and parcel of the bipartisan attack on Civil Liberties and democratic rights as US imperialism wages war abroad while workers and the oppressed watch their rights evaporate before their eyes.